

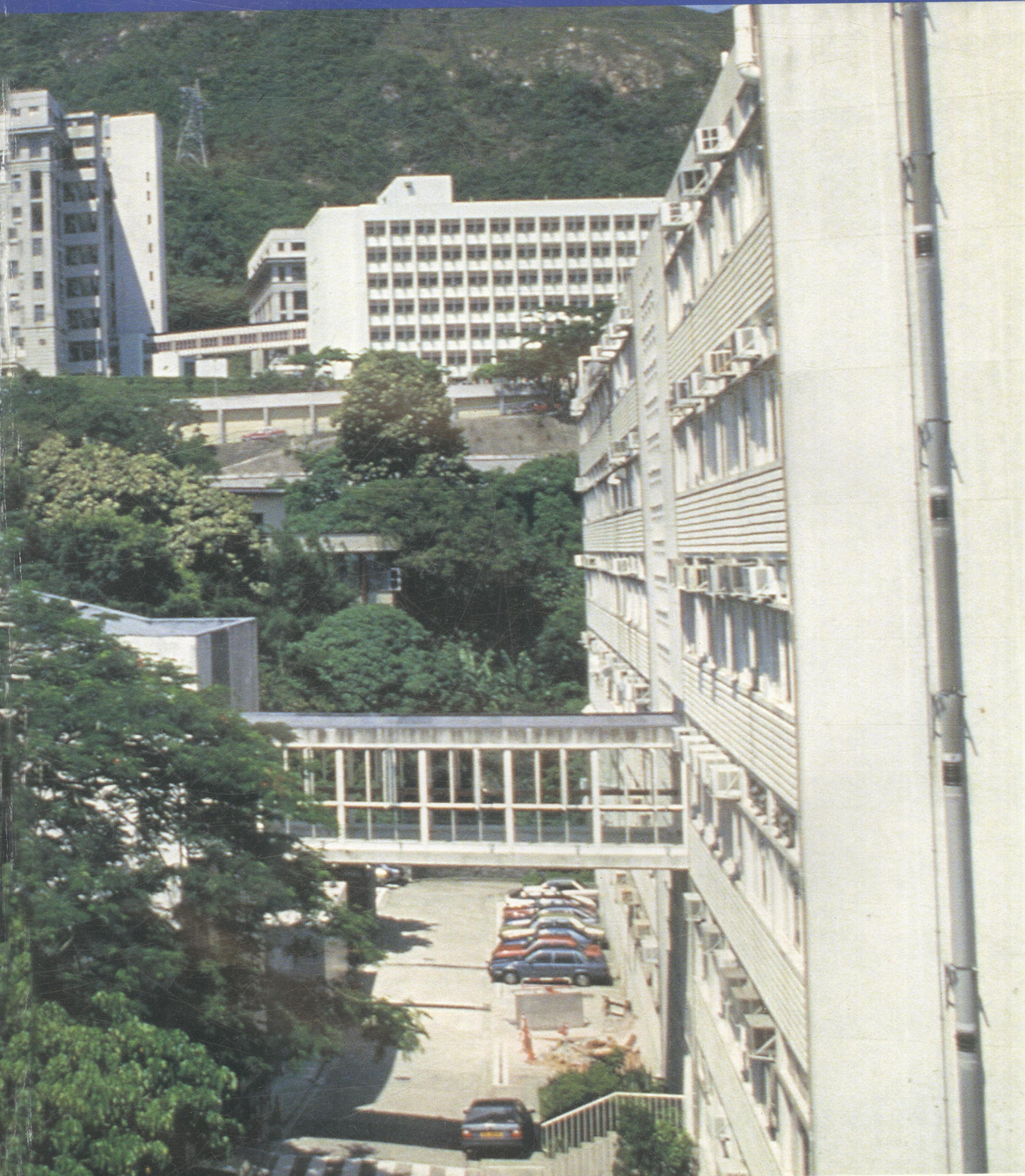
Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

February 1996

Volume 1 Number 1





Professor S.P. Chow
Dean of the Medical School

Our Faculty's mission...

To provide an environment conducive to the advancement of learning, teaching and research in medical and health sciences; to promote its practical application through the direct provision of patient care, and in doing so, to benefit and serve Hong Kong and China and the international community generally.

At the recent seminar on "Mission 2001" at the island of Cheung Chau, sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Clyde Wu, the Dean and Heads of Departments had an intensive weekend to chart the course for the Faculty to move forward towards the year 2001. There are now proposals to increase the number of undergraduate and postgraduate courses and 9 Centres of Excellence were identified within the Faculty for research in fields ranging from cancer and transplantation to biotechnology and human reproduction. These centres were identified based on their expertise, publications, international status, level of research support, postgraduate training and core competence.



Heads of Departments at the seminar

Alumni of the Faculty...

We congratulate Professors David Todd and Rosie Young, two of our distinguished graduates in achieving due recognition for their services to the people of Hong Kong. In the Queen's Birthday Honours list Professor Todd C.B.E. was knighted and in the New Year's honours list Professor Young made Commander of the Order of British Empire. (C.B.E.).



Sir David Todd



Professor Rosie Young

The Sun Yat-Sen Chair in General Practice

In May 1994, Professor Anthony S. Dixon arrived in Hong Kong to take up the newly created Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chair of General Practice at the University of Hong Kong. This Chair was established to recognize the great importance of general practice in the Hong Kong community as a whole. Before his appointment as Professor in this University, Professor Dixon was a professor in the Department of Family Medicine at McMaster University in Canada and whilst he was there he became an enthusiast for the small-group problem-based learning system. He has applied his interest in problem-based learning to other countries such as Kenya, Italy and Iceland.



The General Practice Unit at Ap Lei Chau

Professor Dixon has been involved in delivering primary care in some of the more obscure corners of the world, including rural areas in

"Half the doctors in Hong Kong are General Practitioners, and they take care of 95% of the illnesses presented to the health care system."

Zambia, Kenya and the Arctic regions of northern Canada. He has also acted as a ship's doctor in both the Indian and Antarctic Oceans. The General Practice Unit, which is part of the Department of Medicine, and is based in Ap Lei Chau, provides undergraduate and postgraduate training in general practice, and an active programme of research and clinical care.



The waiting room of the General Practice Unit

STAFF AND STUDENT NEWS...

A New Department of Nursing

In September 1995 the University of Hong Kong introduced a Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) under the auspices of the Faculty of Medicine. This 4 year course is structured around

University Open Day

Every three years the University, in conjunction with the Hong Kong University Students' Union organises an open day for the public.



Mr. James Ting demonstrating plastinated specimens to members of the public

Hundreds of people turned out on the 4th and 5th of November to visit the Faculty of Medicine, which had a prominent presence in the open day. There were a number

of exhibitions and poster displays of projects undertaken by various departments. Two public lectures were organised on topics of general health interests. The medical students also organised slide shows and a variety of health related quizzes and games.

Overall the open days were well attended especially by students who were interested in joining the Faculty. The press was particularly interested in the prospect of traditional Chinese medicine being taught in Hong Kong.

Developments...

A formal affiliation was established at the Faculty level with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in New York to establish exchange programmes for research collaboration in the medical sciences such as (1) alternative and Chinese herbal medicine, (2) viral hepatitis, (3) oesophageal and lung cancer, (4) development of new procedures particularly in biotechnology, and (5) osteoporosis.

So far two projects have been funded. The first involves 2 visiting professorships, and the second, a workshop on Molecular Embryology and Mouse Models of Human Disease, is aimed at providing an intensive theoretical and technical training to staff using transgenic mouse technology in research projects.



Dean Herbert Pardes and Professor Wang Gungwu at the signing of the Affiliation Agreement

five strands of nursing therapeutics, clinical nursing, behavioural sciences, life sciences and nursing practicum and is designed to equip the nurse for work in the 21st Century. Students will be exposed to the full spectrum of patient care from the infant to the geriatric and will be challenged to develop their own skills and roles in a modern health care setting.

The course started with 42 keen students who in their first year have started to develop communication and clinical skills and study the health care system of Hong Kong. During the year they will visit well women and elderly clinics, student health facilities and family assessment centres.



Nursing students learning clinical skills in the wards

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

The intake of 42 students raises the student number to 1099. The breakdown of students is as follows:

M.B.,B.S.	825
B.Nurs.	42
B.Biomed.Sc.	1
M.Phil.	70
Ph.D.	130
M.D.	19
M.S.	4
M.Med.Sc.	8

Study into Schizophrenia

A 15 year prospective study by WHO and the Department of Psychiatry of schizophrenic patients found that 50% of the patients were found to be functioning relatively well with no prominent psychotic symptoms of delusions or hallucinations. About 60% of the patients were able to keep their jobs and 87% manifested no violent or assaultive acts over the most recent two years of their follow-up. Only 15% were found to be very defective in motivation and required support from relatives in daily life functions. About 30% of patients were receiving social and/or disability benefits. 11% of the patients were deceased with suicide accounting for 80% of these cases.

WHO HAS LINKS WITH US?

Columbia University is one of the many affiliations which the Faculty has established links with. Asian links include...

Shanghai Medical University, China
Khon Kaen University, Thailand
West China University of Medical Sciences, China
University of Malaya, Malaysia
Beijing Medical University, China
Padjadjaran University, Indonesia
Peking Union Medical College, China
National University of Singapore, Singapore
Cebu Institute of Medicine, Philippines
Taipei Medical College, Taiwan
Sun Yat Sen University of Medical Science, China
... etc.



Our views...

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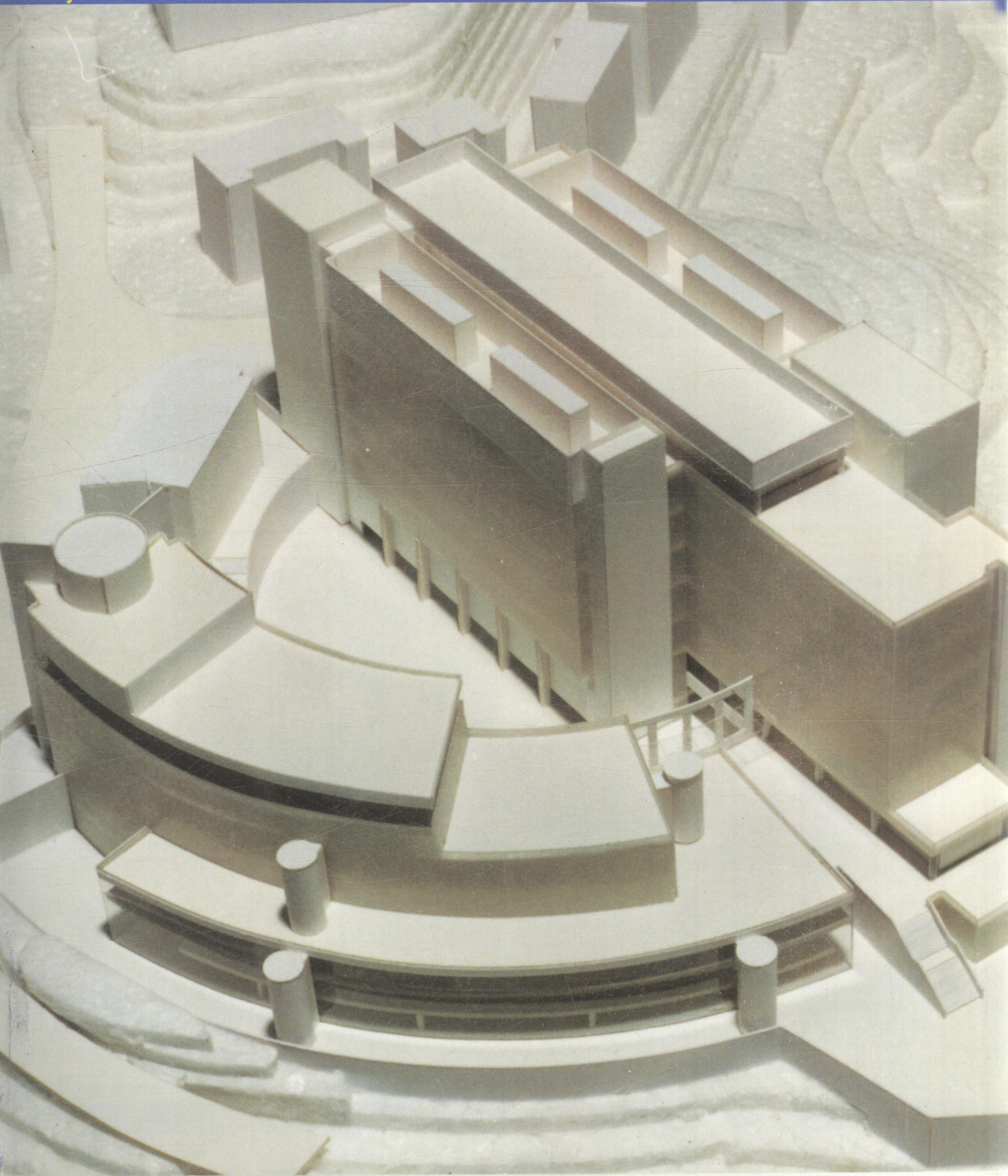
Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

May 1996

Volume 1 Number 2



Dean's message

Although our University has an alumni association with branches all over the world, the special needs of our Medical graduates and post-graduates have not been catered for and hopefully this newsletter will fill them in on our developments. In the coming June, I am planning a tour of some of the medical schools in North America that we have signed agreements with, including those in Vancouver, Toronto, Boston and New York. During that time I shall be happy to meet with alumni.

Faculty developments



The Medical Faculty Dinner-Dance

A Weekend workshop on new innovations in Medical Education was held in February and was attended by 106 staff members. Three invited speakers from England (Professor J Bligh), United States (Prof B Salafsky) and Australia (Prof J Hamilton) challenged

attendees about the change in medical education. Discussion groups focussed on teaching and learning reform, staff development and assessment, curriculum review and faculty administration. During this workshop the faculty held a dinner/dance at Loke Yew Hall during which staff wined and dined until the small hours of the morning. Dr Donald K T Li and Mr Albert Y P Chung donated generously towards this meeting.

NORTHCOTE IS OURS!

On the front cover there is an architect's rendering of the new Northcote building which is being developed to meet the expanding teaching and research needs of the Faculty. The planning and design of a new purpose-built facility will be conducted in two phases. The first phase has already been funded by the UGC and will accommodate the preclinical science departments and contain new lecture theatres. The second phase is still under development but when finalized will comprise a clinical research centre. The tentative date for the possession of the site is September 1997, and the first phase projected to be ready for occupancy by 2000/2001.



Dr and Mrs Clyde Wu

DR and MRS CLYDE WU FUND

Dr and Mrs Clyde WU have donated a sum of HK\$1,000,000 to establish the Dr and Mrs Clyde Wu Fund to support activities of this faculty. Their donation helped to defray many of the costs of the Medical Education weekend workshop. The fund has also been used to sponsor visits to overseas institutions and to support the training course in molecular embryology and transgenic technology organised by Dr K Cheah.



*Professor C Y Yeung,
Department Head,
receiving the cheque from
Mr Hunkin, the President
of CIBC.*

CHILDREN'S MIRACLE CHARITY DONATION

Mr John Hunkin and Mr P Ming Wong of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce presented a donation of HK\$700,000 to the Department of Paediatrics on behalf of their Children's Miracle Charity Fund. The donors were impressed with the high technology and successful outcome of the intensive care programme and the neonatal ICU of the Department. They would like to support the care of these children and to promote further development in the Department to improve child care in general.

STAFF AND STUDENT NEWS ...

Our future graduates - who are they?

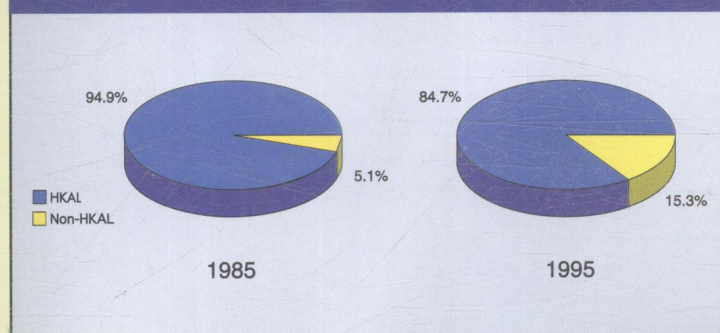
It may come as a surprise to many HKU graduates to discover that there has been a change in the source of prospective doctors to serve Hong Kong in the next ten years. Data from the Faculty office shows that over the past 10 years the number of non-Hong Kong Advanced Level students has been increasing and the current first year comprises 15.3% of students who have not sat the HKAL entrance exam. Ryan Ko is one such medical student. He attended an international school in Hong Kong and sat the A-levels. He was offered a position with one of the London medical schools but turned

that down in favour of the HKU position. He said that he enjoyed living in Hong Kong and felt that the local environment would be more conducive towards productive learning and give a memorable time than being a 'foreign' student in a foreign country. He felt comfortable as a member of the student faculty and the orientation camps, group dinners and even the introductory lectures helped his transition from high school to tertiary life. If the trend for these admissions continues then the faculty will gain in having an international appeal and at the same time produce a colourful and varied group of doctors willing to become part of Hong Kong's medical scheme.



First year student, Ryan Ko

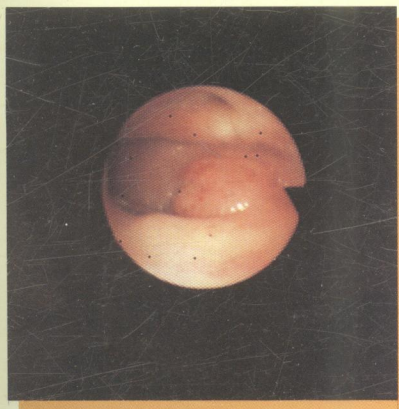
Source of 1st Year Medical Students



Developments...

STUDIES INTO FAMILIAL NASOPHARYNGEAL CARCINOMA

All graduates of this University are well aware of the high rate of NPC in this region. It has been known for many years that if one member of a family has NPC, the other members are at increased risk for developing this disease. Dr Jonathan Sham, Reader in the Department of Radiation Oncology has been given a donation of 1 million dollars by Mr Suen Chi Sun to look into the genetics behind this tumour and is seeking out families who have a high incidence of this tumour. The problem is compounded by a high emigration rate but he hopes that readers of the Faculty News will be on the lookout for ex-Hong Kong residents who develop this disease and have an affected sib.



Endoscopic appearance of NPC

He can be contacted by fax (852) 28726426 or by phone (852) 28554351.

TOPICS IN PATHOLOGY FOR HONG KONG

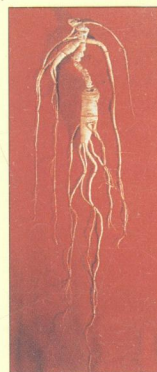
The Department of Pathology launched a text book entitled "Topics in Pathology for Hong Kong" last year designed to give medical students in Hong Kong the chance to learn about diseases of local importance. Edited by Professors Faith Ho and PC Wu, the book drew upon the expertise of Department members in various specialist fields to provide a concise volume on topics such as SLE, Lymphoma, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma and Hepatitis. Copies are available



Professors F Ho and PC Wu with some of the chapter authors of Topics in Pathology for Hong Kong

from the University of Hong Kong Bookstore and cost HK\$120. A 20% discount is given for staff and students.

Department of Physiology study using Chinese Medicine



The teaching of Traditional Chinese Medicine may not feature in the coming Triennium but research into the vascular effects of 2 Chinese remedies using ginseng and tetrandrine is being undertaken by Professor David Kwan in the Department of Physiology. Tetrandrine has been used in its native format to treat hypertension and appears to work in ways not exhibited by traditional anti-hypertensives. He has also been investigating the cellular actions of ginseng and aims to provide a scientific foundation to the actions of this remarkable medicinal plant.

Alumni of the Faculty

Professor William Wei,

a 1974 graduate of this Faculty has been recently appointed the William Mong Chair of Otorhinolaryngology. Professor Wei is well known in HK and overseas for his work in head and neck surgery and is on the editorial board of many ENT and surgery journals. He is also the president of the Hong Kong College of Otorhinolaryngology. His intention is to identify the Queen Mary Hospital to be not only a referral centre for the region but a tertiary referral centre for the whole of Asia. Professor Wei is well recognized in the field of laryngology, head and neck cancer surgery and cochlear implantation. He hopes that through proper education of the students in this Faculty the tradition of good patient care, research and teaching will be passed on to future graduates.



Professor Ricky Man took up the chair of the Department of Pharmacology in late 1995. Before his appointment in this University, he was a professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics in the University of Manitoba. Professor Man left Hong Kong 25 years ago for Canada, where he obtained his B.Sc. in Zoology and Ph.D. in Pharmacology at the University of Manitoba in 1973 and 1977, respectively. He has been a research scholar of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and is a member of the Canadian Pharmacological Society and the International Society for Heart research. He has recently been elected as president of the Hong Kong Pharmacology Society. Professor Man is interested in the newly discovered vaso-active peptides, in the molecular genetics of cardiovascular diseases and in hyperlipidaemia. In addition to research, teaching and administration (as Head of the Department of Pharmacology), Professor Man would like to raise public awareness of the dangers of heart disease, as the rate of heart attack is rapidly rising in the territory. He hopes to educate people on the prevention of these diseases.



DR Lap-Ki Chan, who graduated in 1989 is now working at Duke University, North Carolina on the functional anatomy of the shoulder and thorax in primates. He has found keeping in touch with HKU graduates difficult but through E-mail and phone calls manages to maintain contact. He was glad to hear about the developments in the Faculty and would like to know how some of his colleagues are. His E-mail is lkchan@acpub.duke.edu



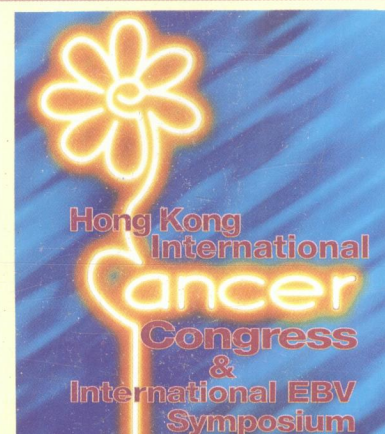
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS...

3rd Hong Kong International Cancer Congress and VI International Epstein-Barr Virus Meeting. November 13th-16th, 1996

The 3rd HKICC meeting will be held at the HK Convention and Exhibition Centre. A unique feature of this meeting will be a collaboration with the VIth International Society for Research in Epstein-Barr Virus Symposium, allowing a good opportunity for clinicians and scientists to meet and exchange experiences and ideas on virus related malignancies. In addition to the EBV meeting there will be symposia on paediatric neuro-oncology, hepatocellular carcinoma, gynaecological carcinoma, HTLV-1 related disorders and a strong emphasis on psychosocial medicine and communication. The Faculty has been involved in previous HKICC meetings and this year is no exception. Interested readers are invited to contact the Secretariat, HKICC, Department of Surgery, University of Hong Kong, Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong. (Phone: (852)28554235, Fax: (852)28181186 for further information. E-mail: mededcon@hkucc.hku.hk)

Orientation Workshop of Opioid Research across the Strait. December 15-18th, 1996. Dr T M Wong, Department of Physiology is the Co-Chairman of this Workshop. For further information contact him on (852)-28199202 (phone), (852)28559730 (fax) or wongtakm@hkuvmd1.hku.hk.

First China - Hong Kong Nursing Education Conference September 2nd - 6th, 1996. The Department of Nursing Studies is Co-organiser for this meeting. The main theme is nursing education in Hong Kong and China. (Fax: 852 28726079 for further information)



Notice to all overseas alumni:

As you know, the weather in Hong Kong in November is clear and pleasant. As well as an update on the treatment and management of patients with cancer, these conferences will be a valuable opportunity to catch up with many of your colleagues whom you may not have seen for many years. Please contact the Faculty if you are interested in a reunion.

Links with China ...

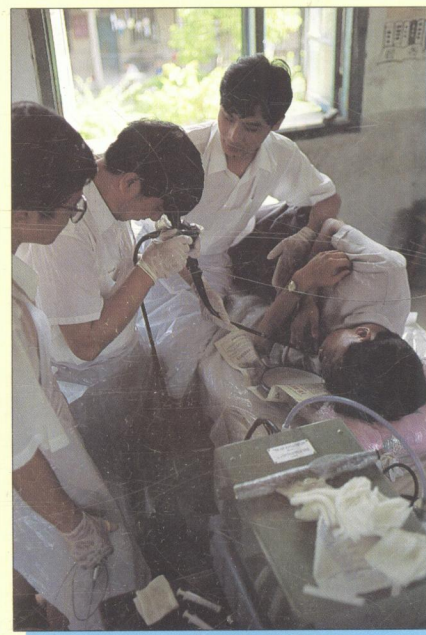
Gastroendoscopic Unit visits Fujian

In the middle of July last year a team of gastroenterologists headed by Professor S K Lam of the Department of Medicine made a visit to Changle county, Fujian province to assist local gastroenterologists in a screening programme for gastric cancer and to offer treatment to affected patients. Changle county was chosen as it has one of the highest prevalence rates of gastric cancer in China - carcinoma of the stomach in 1970 accounted for just under half the cancer deaths in that region.

The team departed with 14 crates of equipment and reached Fuzhou by plane, this was followed by an hour's ride by car to their destination. Due to procedural delays the endoscopes did not arrive with the team so a small number were borrowed from local sources. The local tumour research and prevention institute helped the gastroenterologists in asking dietary questions, taking and processing blood, and recruiting patients. Medical students and newly qualified nurses were recruited as endoscopy nurses but as none had ever handled endoscopes a certain amount of time in training was required.

During the first morning 100 patients were able to be screened and the afternoon was spent entering data into the computer and arranging customs release of the endoscopes. Once these endoscopes arrived on the third day the doctors were able to operate four sets of fiberoptic endoscopes at once and the addition of a video endoscope created entertainment for the local population. Over the next four weeks the team moved from town to town, often using schools as clinics and desks fitted together as makeshift couches. The team performed mucosectomy for early mucosal cancers and the assistance of a surgeon was enlisted to help on more advanced cases.

By the end of the four weeks 2,500 endoscopies had been performed and over 20 gastric cancers discovered, some very early. As most local villages did not have access to such advanced screening techniques these gastric cancers would normally have reached an advanced stage before diagnosis was made. Professor Lam hoped that he would get a chance to return for a follow-up study in a few years time and was glad of the invaluable experience gained from this period.



Textbook of Medical Physiology

The Department of Physiology, together with Zhejiang Medical University and 10 other medical universities is engaged in writing a "Textbook of Medical Physiology" for mainland medical students. Dr T M Wong is the Editor-in-Chief and expects the book to be available in 1997.

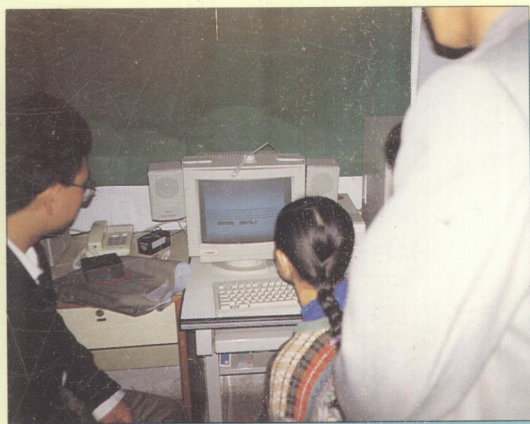
DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY PRIZE WINNER

Dr Kwok-Fai So, Reader in the Department of Anatomy and Honorary Director of the Neuroscience Research Centre, was one of the prize winners of the 7th (1995) National Award in Natural Science offered by the National Natural Science Foundation of China. His research project entitled "The Axonal Regeneration of Retinal Ganglion Cells in Mammals" was awarded the 4th Class Honour Prize. The National Award in Natural Science, which is held once every two years, is the top prize awarded to scientists in China, Hong Kong and Macao, who are in the field of Natural Science. The Award includes a cash prize, medal and certificate.



Medical Software demonstrated in Shantou University

In December 1995, Dr John Nicholls from the Department of Pathology made a visit to Shantou University and had the opportunity to demonstrate some of the Computer Assisted Learning programmes developed in his Department to staff and students of the University Medical School. The programmes have been designed to run on standard IBM machines and are used for the teaching of both systemic and general pathology. It is hoped that in future more universities in China will be able to benefit from this form of learning.



Staff and students experimenting with CALS programmes at Shantou.

Department News ...

Medical Research Conference, Department of Medicine

A departmental research conference was organized by the Department of Medicine over the weekend of 23rd-24th March at the Gold Coast Hotel (Castle Peak, not Queensland). One of the major objectives of this conference was to enable doctors inside and outside the department to become acquainted with and appreciate the on-going research work of the department, in the hope that this would stimulate collaborative research among institutional and community doctors.



A group photograph of the Conference Party on departure from the Gold Coast

All members of the department were invited and guests from other departments in the Faculty were also present. There were presentations from subspecialty divisions to highlight their research work, as well as oral and poster presentations of free papers from members, trainees and postgraduate students of the department. Apart from presentations of on-going research work from the 14 sub-specialty divisions, 23 completed abstracts were chosen for oral presentations from a collection of 51 abstracts submitted to the department. There were prizes for the best oral presentation won by Dr C S Lau and Dr David Ho, lecturers, respectively. All abstracts were published in a supplement of the the "Hong Kong Practitioner", the Journal of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners.

The conference was a success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Research was discussed in a pleasant and relaxed environment and as freely as possible outside the meeting rooms. The Department of Medicine is planning to make this an annual event where members can discuss research output and projects for the past year.

Course on Molecular Embryology and Transgenic Technology

This course, the first of its kind in Asia, will provide the unique opportunity to learn theoretical and technical principles of transgenic technology. With support from the Medical Faculty, Hong Kong Government Industrial Support Fund a Transgenic Technology Centre will be established at the University of Hong Kong and the Course will be held at this Centre. The three week course has invited many distinguished overseas experts who are leaders in the field of transgenic technology. Subsequent to the course, there will be facilities for training of individuals from the industrial and academic sectors in the theory and practice of transgenic animal production. Further information about the course can be obtained from Dr K Cheah (hrmbdkc@hkumcd1.hku.hk) or <http://www.hku.hk/biochem/course/center.html>



Our views...

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Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

September 1996

Volume 1 Number 3

A quarterly update to keep alumni and friends in touch, and up to date.

FACULTY EXHIBITION ON OSTEOPOROSIS



(from left): Professor A.W.C. Kung, Professor J.C.Y. Leong, Professor S.P. Chow, Dr. The Honourable C.H. Leong, Professor L.C. Wong, Professor S.K. Lam, Dr. P.K.Y. Chiu




Many of the public were keen to seek more information on Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis and You

This was the title of a joint exhibition organized by the Faculty of Medicine, with joint efforts of the Department of Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Orthopaedics and Traumatology, held over the June 29th weekend at the Ocean Terminal.

The objective of this exhibition was to educate people with the correct and positive knowledge about osteoporosis through different media; there was a poster display, brochure and test card distribution and a computer game. Doctors and researchers were present for on-site consultation. Throughout the event more than 6,000 people sought information on this important condition.

The exhibition was generously supported by Merck Sharp and Dohme(Asia) and Harbour City Management. 

WHAT'S INSIDE...

- Curriculum reform (pg 2)
- Alumni news (pg 3)
- What's coming up (pg 4)
- Networking update (pg 5)
- In the news (pg 6)

DEAN'S MESSAGE

In the post-1997 era, what makes our medical school distinct from others in China must be our international characteristic. Our undergraduate curriculum is undergoing a reform towards that direction. Our research must also move towards international collaboration, with the support of modern technology and communication. Our teachers should be encouraged and supported to explore possible ideas of joint projects at this stage. The next stage should be more focused and quality rather than quantity must be emphasized. My recent trip to North America has revealed abundant opportunities and goodwill in our sister institutions, with support from friends and alumni.

CURRICULUM REFORM - AN UPDATE

Summer is traditionally a time when many teaching activities wind down but a small group of teachers have been meeting regularly to plan the curriculum changes that will be necessary to implement the proposals of the Working Group on Medical Faculty Reform. The recommendations of this group were accepted by the Faculty Board, with a recommended starting date for the new curriculum structure of September 1997.

The group, chaired by Professor Tony Dixon is currently focussing on the Foundation Course, which will occupy the First Semester of the 1st year Course. The intent is that the Foundation Course will serve as an introduction to medical science and the health care system in Hong Kong, as well as helping students to develop computer skills and discover the different resources available at the medical school.




In the new curriculum students will spend more time in tutorials working through clinical problems

During this course, an English enhancement programme will be available. Following the Foundation Course will be a series of "systems- based" units, developed and coordinated by teams of basic scientists and clinicians.

Woven throughout these units will be common threads which will include clinical and communication skills, community experiences, medical ethics and economics and evidence-based medicine. Also planned are "special study modules"- elective periods that will allow students to study areas of individual interest.

The planning group is examining ideas from around the world in an

effort to make sure that the Medical School course is as up to date as possible, but is also working to ensure that any changes represent a "Made in Hong Kong" programme, appropriate for the particular needs of Hong Kong medical students and the community which they will serve in the future. 

OUR VIEWS...

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ALUMNI NEWS ...

Queen's Birthday honours were awarded to three distinguished HKU graduates...



Professor Sir Harry FANG Sin Yang CBE, MB, BS, Hon. LLD HK, MCh(Orth) Liv, FRCS Edin, FACS, FRACS, FRCPE, JP was knighted. He has made pioneering advances in spinal surgery and for his work in rehabilitation for disabled people.

Professor MA CHUNG Ho Kei CBE, MB, BS, FRCOG, JP for her contributions to Medical Education whilst serving as the Dean of the HKU Faculty of Medicine and as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.



Professor John LEONG Chi Yan OBE, MB, BS, FRCS, FRACS, JP for his achievements in orthopaedic surgery, in the development of medical and health care, and in community service.

Toronto Alumni Reunion



Professor S.P. Chow had a chance to meet some of the 1968 HKU graduates when he was in Toronto, Canada recently. Pictured with him are Dr S.P. Lee, Dr T.Y. Chien, Dr S.C. Chang, Dr Peter Chang & Dr H.L. Ho.

If any alumni have news of forthcoming events, please let us know! 

STUDENT ROOMS - THEN AND NOW




As the academic year begins the activity of the halls of residence comes into full swing. Before 1992 a building called the 'Clinical Students' Residence' was situated at 7 Sassoon Road. Since 1992 this has been replaced by the 150 bed Madam S H Ho Residence for Medical Students.

These rooms are for mainly 4th year and 5th year medical students with 70 rooms reserved for students doing specialty clerkship in Medicine, Surgery or



Paediatrics. Around 7-8 rooms are reserved for overseas students doing elective terms.

The residence is under the mastership of Dr David Ho Sai Wah, a cardiologist and lecturer in the Department of Medicine, who is assisted by Mr Stephen Chan, the manager and Miss Florence Ng, a clerk. This, together with the other 3 residential halls, 6 Sassoon Road is the biggest student residential area of the University. 

WHAT'S COMING UP?

September	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30					
	1996						

October	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		
	1996						

November	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	1996						

Monday 2 - Friday 6

First China-Hong Kong Education Conference, Princess Margaret Hospital. Department of Nursing Studies (2855 4749)

Saturday 7

Laparoscopic Workshop. Animal Laboratory, Li Shu Fan Bldg, 5 Sassoon Rd. 9:00am-5:00pm. Department of Surgery (2856 3025)

Monday 9

Lecture: Dr Bruno de Lignieres, Hopital Necker, Paris, *French Experience in HRT*. Rm 604, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital. 8:30-9:30 am. Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (2855 4260).

Tuesday 10

Lecture: Prof JD Wood, Ohio State University, USA, *Enteric Neuro-Immunology* G05, G/F., Patrick Manson Building South Wing, 7 Sassoon Rd. Department of Pharmacology (2819 9250).

Friday 20

Lecture: Prof Kenneth Raymond, The Chinese University of HK, *Pharmacokinetic Approaches in Assisting Dosage Adjustment* G05, G/F., Patrick Manson Building South Wing, 7 Sassoon Rd. 5:30 pm. SPMET (2819 9290).

Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 or Thursday 10

Lecture: Prof John P Hearn, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA, *Natural Regulation of Fertility in Wild Mammals* Department of Anatomy, HKU (2819 9220).

Tuesday 8

Lecture: Prof Ulrich Mennen, Medical University of Southern Africa, South Africa. Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, HKU (2855 4254).

Wednesday 30

Lecture: Prof AJ Hedley, The University of Hong Kong, *The Demand for Medical Care & Environmental Factors for Respiratory Disease in HK : The Feasibility of Closing a Major Teaching Hospital in HK by 2020*. G05, G/F., Patrick Manson Building South Wing, 7 Sassoon Rd. 5:30 pm. SPMET (2819 9290).

Sunday 10

Lecture: Prof Shah Ebrahim, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, UK, *Cardiovascular Health*. Department of Community Medicine (2819 9280).

Tuesday 12

Lecture: Prof Shoichi Kokubun, Tohoku University School of Medicine, Japan. Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, HKU (2855 4254).

Wednesday 13

Lecture: Dr LP Samaranayake, The University of Hong Kong, *Emerging Infections, Oral Disease and Medical Practice*. G05, G/F., Patrick Manson Building South Wing, 7 Sassoon Rd. 5:30 pm SPMET (2819 9290).

Wednesday 13 Saturday 16

Hong Kong International Cancer Congress & International EBV Symposium. Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Department of Surgery (2818 0232)

Friday 15 - Sunday 17

Chinese Paediatric Forum. The University of Hong Kong. Department of Paediatrics, HKU (2855 4375).

Saturday 23, Sunday 24

Symposium on Chinese Medicine & Public Health. Department of Community Medicine (2819 9280).

Forthcoming Meetings...

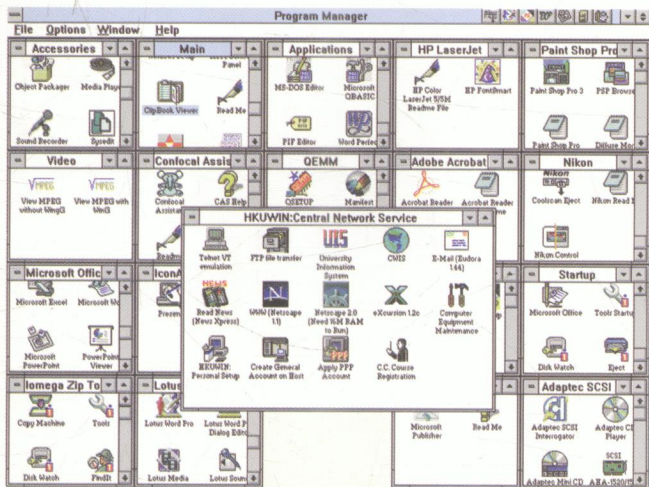
- **ORIENTATION WORKSHOP OF OPIOID RESEARCH ACROSS THE STRAIT. DECEMBER 15-18TH, 1996.** Dr T. M. Wong, Department of Physiology is the Co-Chairman of this Workshop. For further information contact him on (852)28199202 (phone), (852)28559730 (fax) or wongtakm@hkuvmd1.hku.hk

- **11TH BIENNIAL CONGRESS OF THE ASIAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION 2-5TH MARCH, 1997.** This will be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and provide a forum to exchange ideas with surgeons practicing in a variety of fields of interest including general surgery, upper gastrointestinal and colorectal disease, hepatobiliary disorders, endocrine, plastic and reconstructive surgery, neurosurgery, urology and vascular surgery. Contact the Secretariat, HKICC, Department of Surgery, University of Hong Kong, Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong (Phone: (852)28554235, Fax: (852)28181186 for further information. E-mail: mededcon@hkucc.hku.hk)

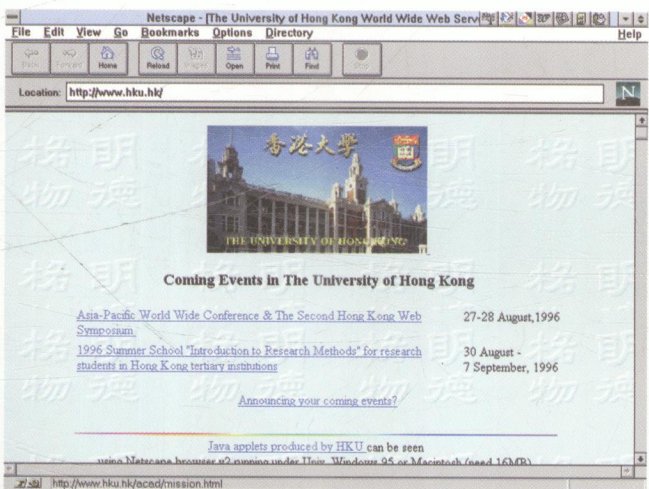
NETWORKING UPDATE...

In the first of a regular series of articles we will show you how you can use newtworking facilities to keep up to date in your field.

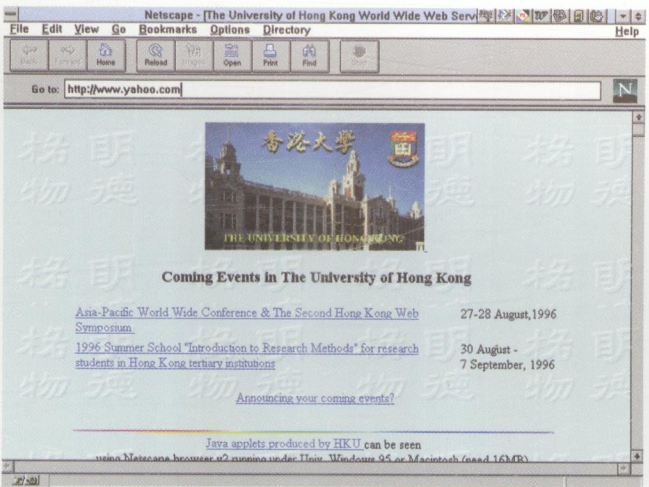
1. Basic use of the World Wide Web.



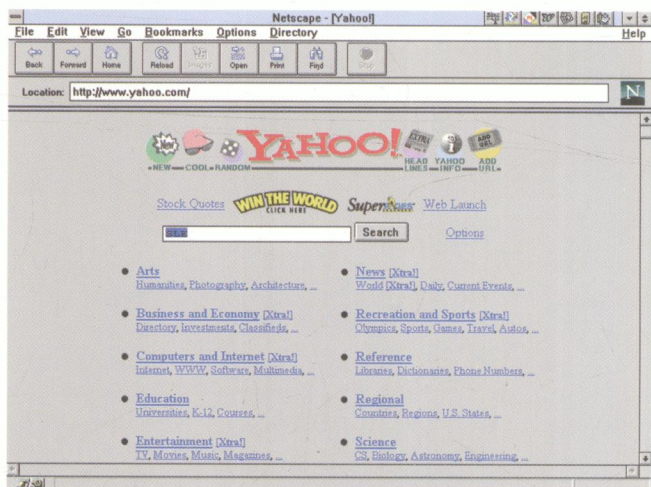
To start your journey, click the mouse on the Netscape icon



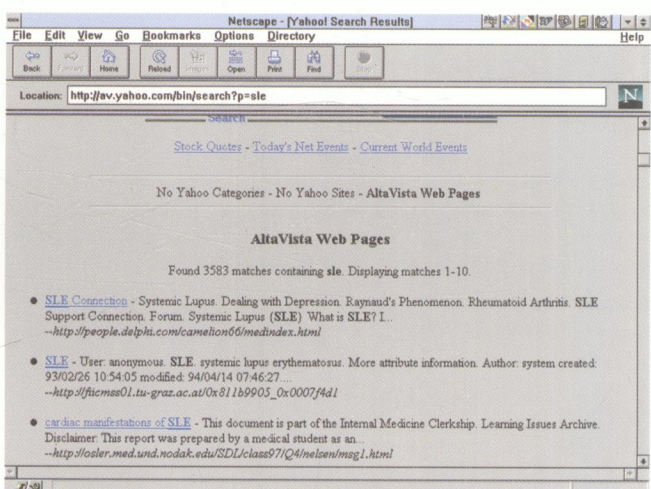
This takes you to the HKU home page. Move the mouse to the Location box.



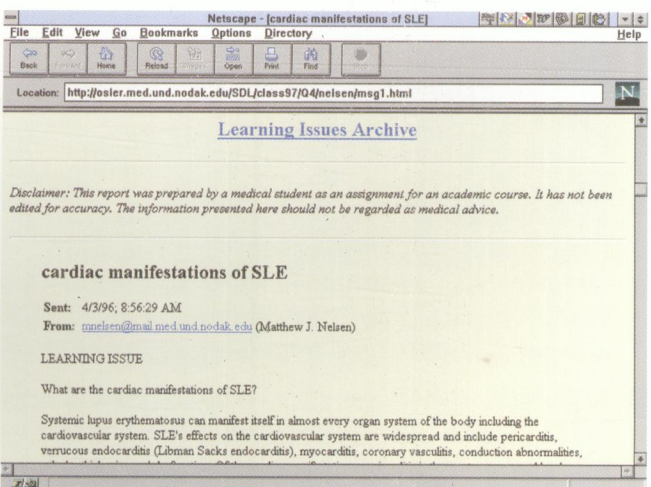
Type in <http://www.yahoo.com> to get into the search engine.



To search the title of interest type in the relevant words, in this case SLE



Yahoo tells you what it has found. Click on the highlighted areas to go to the site of interest.



In this case there is a page on cardiac manifestations of SLE

Next month: Hot medical sites! If you know of any let us know!

IN THE NEWS AND OUR VIEWS...

Summer Holidays and Student Attachment

By the end of August the Faculty will have finished the sixth year of work experience for secondary medical students. This programme has been designed to give students a chance to see what happens inside a hospital and what the work of a doctor is. This year a total of 64 students out of 82 applicants were chosen to spend 2 weeks in Departments of the Faculty of Medicine.

Competition for the posts was high and the successful students were selected on the results of their HKCEE scores. The Departments which were visited were mainly clinical and included Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Paediatrics, Pathology and Surgery.

The feedback, as in previous years, was beneficial. Students thought that the experience was informative, useful and memorable and gave them a good opportunity to experience a doctor's life. They were particularly impressed with the chance to see live operations and also liked the anatomy museum.

For over half of the students, the experience reinforced their thoughts of entering into the medical profession and thought that the programme should continue for future years.



Most students carefully listened to Mr. Ting introducing the Anatomy Museum while others were intrigued by the preserved body parts

Community Medicine and The Smoking Issue

The Department of Community Medicine demonstrated its strong commitment to smoking prevention and tobacco control when members participated in a petition drive to support the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill. This bill proposes bans on tobacco advertising in print and display media. Over 3,000 signatures in support for the bill, from a broad spectrum of the community, were presented to the Governor by Dr Carol Betson, a lecturer from Community Medicine.

In another demonstration of community service, Professor

A J Hedley, Head of the Department, debated with Professor Philip Witorsch from George Washington University in the United States over Asia TV News Satellite link between Hong Kong and Singapore on the issue of environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). Professor Witorsch, a long standing consultant to the tobacco industry, maintained that there is relatively little danger from ETS but Professor Hedley argued that the current epidemiological evidence suggests that there is no safe level of exposure and that ETS is a significant public health problem - particularly in children.

110 Years and Going Strong

110 years is a long time for a University and since the Hong Kong College of Medicine was instituted in 1897 with Dr Sun Yat-Sen as one of its first graduates there have been many changes in the structure and function of this University.

It is therefore fitting and appropriate that mention is made of the 110th Anniversary and a Working Group has been set up to plan for this important event.

The highlight will be an International Scientific Congress planned for the later part of the year consisting of exhibitions, concurrent sessions and a gala dinner. The theme of the conference will be the advances which have been made in this region as well as the links which have been established with mainland China.

The conference will also aim to stimulate a reunion of alumni who are now spreading over all parts of the world.

Next year is also the 60th anniversary of Queen Mary Hospital. To celebrate such an occasion, Queen Mary Hospital has been organizing open weeks of individual departments from now until 1997. By opening various departments to

the public, the hospital is improving public awareness of the services that are provided. It promotes general health education and also helps to create a team spirit among the hospital staff.



Dr. Sun Yat-sen as first graduate

Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

January 1997

Volume 1 Issue 4

A quarterly update to keep alumni and friends in touch, and up to date.

FACULTY RESEARCH WEEKEND



Staff and students viewing the poster exhibition at Wei Lun Hall during the Faculty Research Weekend.




Dr K H Lee, Dr John Mackay and Dr Judith Mackay at the poster awards ceremony.



The best posters were awarded to (from left): Mr Lai Chun Hong, Miss Rainbow Kwan, Mr Richard Pang and Mr Sheng Jian Zhang

The Faculty Research Weekend was held from 23-24th November, 1996. The specific aims were to gather and allow staff members to share their experiences on their on-going research projects, so that more collaborations in the future could be achieved.

The Opening Ceremony was officiated by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Y.C. Cheng and was followed by poster sessions presented by postgraduate students and oral sessions delivered by staff members. Professor Sir David Todd from our Faculty and Professor Joseph Lee, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, also talked about the research directions of the two medical schools in Hong Kong. The Faculty Research Weekend concluded with the presentation of the best poster awards to Ph.D and M.Phil students. The Dean's Awards were also presented to Mrs. Ivy Wu and Dr. Judith Mackay for their contributions to the health and medical aspects of the Hong Kong Community. This was followed by a dinner held in Loke Yew Hall at which the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr. Joseph Wong was invited as the guest of honour. 

WHAT'S INSIDE...

- JUPAS Open Day (pg 2)
- Alumni news (pg 3)
- Developments (pg 4)
- Recent Meetings (pg 6)

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Medical technology has made great advances in the recent fifty years and a doctor now possesses much more armamentaria in his treatment of diseases. Yet, there seems to be more complaints and litigations brought against the medical profession nowadays. The family physician practising half a century ago, on the other hand, seemed to command much better respect, especially at times when they could offer nothing much to their patients or relatives except tender loving care. This humanitarian aspect was not explicitly written in our Mission Statement which only refers to the "...medical and health sciences". Some alumni have suggested that we should add the word "art" to highlight "the art and science of medicine and health". Since next year is the 110th anniversary of our medical school, it is also an opportunity for us to re-write our Mission Statement. I would like to receive comments from all of you.

ANNUAL JUPAS OPEN DAY...

The yearly University of Hong Kong open day for prospective students was held on the 19th October this year and attracted over 2,500 visitors to the faculty.

The aim was to introduce the different departments in the faculty to the secondary school students who might be thinking of medicine or nursing as a future career.

The exhibition featured video shows and poster displays from each of the departments highlighting the activities taking place in the Medical Faculty and members of staff were at hand to answer questions. This gave opportunities for the prospective students to find out more about the courses and the individual subjects that they might want to study.


Guided tours were laid out to show the students around a few of the departments. The pre-clinical Departments of Anatomy, Biochemistry, Pharmacology and Physiology



Interested visitors at the opening day

combined to present some of their research activities with various demonstrations. The Department of Psychiatry allowed the visitors a glimpse into their daily work demonstrating sleep assessment and brain mapping. The Department of Obstetric and Gynaecology opened their laboratory of assisted fertilization to the visitors whilst the

Department of Nursing Studies staged demonstrations of nursing skills and health assessment methods.

Next year 1997, being the 110 anniversary of the medical faculty, will have special sentiment to all of us. The future of the faculty depends on this group of students who will be the doctors and nurses of the future. The enthusiasm and interests shown by the bright young students during this visit are an assurance that the Medical Faculty has a prosperous future. 

OUR VIEWS...

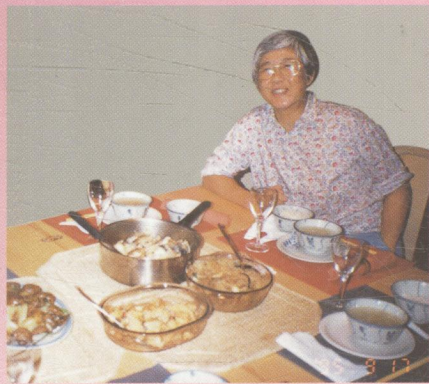
The aims of this newsletter are to improve the awareness of the activities of members of the Faculty of Medicine, especially the collaborations between departments, and to inform outside bodies or individuals about current activities of the Faculty. This newsletter will be published 4 times a year and sent free to all registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong. It will also be sent to overseas medical schools and recent graduates of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong. If you have photographs of your time in the Medical Faculty, news or updates on past graduates, please forward all

correspondence to The Editor, Medical Faculty News, Faculty of Medicine, 7 Sassoon Road, Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong. Fax enquiries to the Faculty of Medicine (852)-28559742, E-mail: dmwliu@hkucc.hku.hk

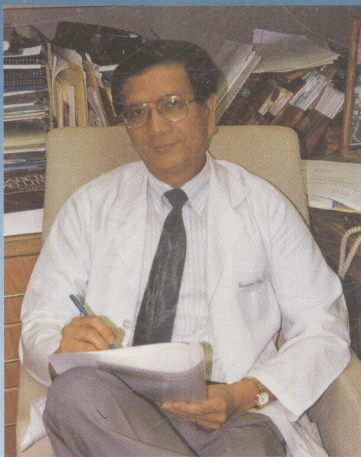
Editorial Board:

Dr J M Nicholls (Editor)
Prof C H Cho
Dr E T F Ho
Dr H P Sheng
Dr C M Wong

ALUMNI NEWS ...

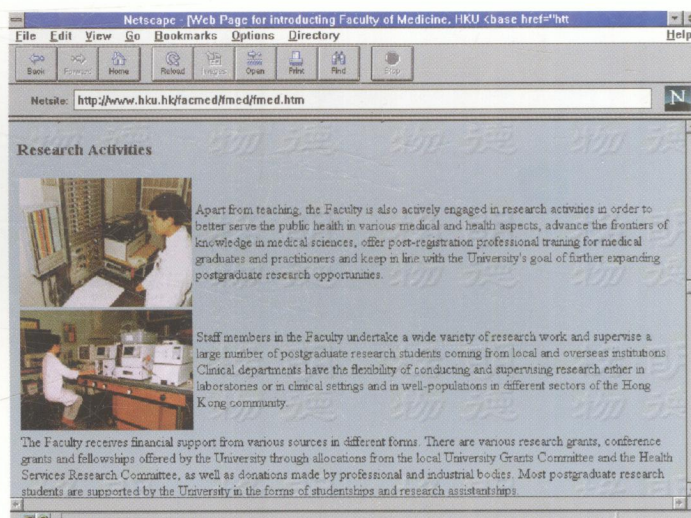
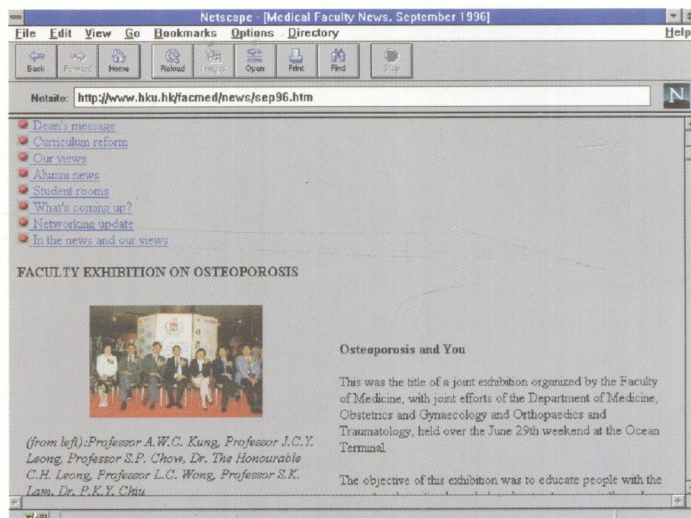



PROFESSOR H.K. MA., since retiring, she continues to dedicate her time to voluntary work in promoting women's health and family planning both locally and abroad. She continues to serve as a member of the International Medical Advisory Panel of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. She was elected the Secretary General of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) and therefore is responsible for supervising the work of the FIGO Secretariat located in London. In her leisure time, she tries to set up her London home, to improve her skill as a chef, and to catch up on reading. Her friends have established a Foundation in her name, the mission of which is "to improve the social, medical and educational welfare of women and to promote high standard for their care in Hong Kong". She helps as a volunteer and advisor to the Foundation.



PROFESSOR LAWRENCE CHAN M.D., a 1966 HKU graduate, was recently in Hong Kong to deliver an Inaugural Lecture for the Centre for Cellular Biology. Since leaving Hong Kong he worked in Canada briefly before joining Washington University where he received internal medicine training. In 1973 he came to Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas where he has a busy academic life centred around research, education and patient care. He is currently a Professor of the Departments of Cell Biology and Medicine as well as Director of the Centre for Molecular Medicine.

NETWORKING UPDATE...




The response from readers to medical web sites resulted in too many for one page and as a result these will be incorporated into the Faculty's new web page. In view of the trend for electronic access the Faculty has recently appointed an Assistant Computer Officer, Mr. Albert Au, who will be setting up web sites and e-mail contacts for staff and alumni to have easy access to. Already we have our own web page which has previous issues of Medical Faculty News incorporated into it. In the future we hope to list all our alumni into our web page and give details of their contacts. If you are one of our alumni, either in Hong Kong or overseas who wish to be listed, please let us know! 

DEVELOPMENTS...



Professor Huang Jie-Fu, President of Sun Yat-Sen University of Medical Sciences and Professor S P Chow


Sun Yat-Sen University Agreement

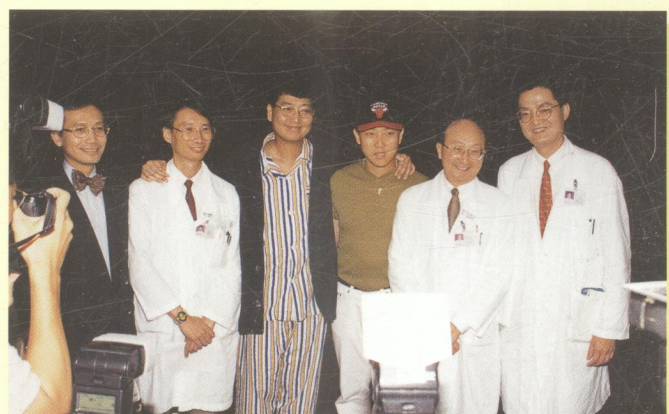
An agreement for Exchange of Academic Staff and Students was signed on September 9, 1996, between The Sun Yat-Sen University of Medical Sciences (SUMS) and our Faculty in order to strengthen the academic interaction between Hong Kong and China. This agreement provides an opportunity for staff members and postgraduate students of SUMS to conduct their research and clinical training at HKU for a period of up to one year. 

Academic Collaboration with the University of British Columbia

In early January, an agreement for Academic Collaboration was signed between the Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong and the Faculty of Medicine, the University of British Columbia (UBC). The purpose of this agreement was to establish a lasting partnership between the two institutions in the fields of medical education, research and clinical care. The Faculty has identified a number of areas for possible research collaboration.


A meeting was recently held where presentations by the specialty groups for partnership were heard

and the criteria for determining which group would be supported were laid down. It was recommended that the two fields of collaborative researches to be supported initially would be Cardiovascular Science and Medicine, and Neuroscience. It was also recommended that Cancer and related researches should receive Faculty support and commence in the near future. Teleconferencing, Molecular Medicine and Molecular genetics would be incorporated, where appropriate, into these fields of collaborative researches. 



The successful liver transplant team (from left); Dr C L Lai, Dr Ronald Lo, recipient, donor, Professor S T Fan, Dr C M Lo

Department of Surgery leads the world in successful right lobe liver transplants

Right lobe liver transplants are more difficult to perform than left lobe due to the anatomy and blood supply of the right lobe. The operation has been performed in other countries without success. However, in what has been described as a world first, Professor S.T. Fan from the Department of Surgery led his team in performing two living-related right lobe liver transplants from relatives into recipients with acute liver failure. Both patients have been discharged and are recovering well. 


MORE DEVELOPMENTS...

MELATONIN RESEARCH

Melatonin has been boldly described by some to be the hottest pill of the coming decade. However, its mechanisms and sites of action await to be fully established. Recent studies by Prof. S.F. Pang, Dr. A.M.S. Poon and Dr. S.Y.W. Shui of the Department of Physiology and coworkers in other institutions have, however, suggested direct melatonin actions on peripheral tissues, rather than on the brain and the pituitary; these include the heart, lungs, blood vessels, immune tissues, kidneys, liver, etc.

The mechanisms of melatonin action on peripheral

tissues remain unclear, but it has been hypothesized that there are different melatonin receptor subtypes in different tissues and that these receptor subtypes are functionally different. Further studies on the signal transduction pathway of native and recombinant receptor proteins will provide important information on the physiological functions of melatonin receptors in peripheral tissues.


These findings will contribute to the clarification of mechanisms and sites of melatonin actions; provide the scientific basis for the development of tissue-specific melatonin analogs; and identify possible agricultural and clinical applications of melatonin and its analogs in the future. 

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SMOKING

Professor T.H. Lam from the Department of Community Medicine was invited as a keynote speaker in the Chinese First National Conference of Occupational Health Surveillance which was held in October, 1996 in Kunming, China. The paper he presented "The methodological issues in using occupational health surveillance in epidemiological research" was derived from his successful experience, which started 10 years ago, in collaboration with Dr. Jiang Chao-Qiang, Director of the Guangzhou Occupational Diseases Prevention and Treatment Centre. In the keynote address, Professor Lam highlighted the great potentials of using occupational health surveillance information for different types of epidemiological studies and the importance for



Professor Lam Tai-Hing (5th from left) and Dr Jiang Chao-Qiang (4th from left) with other organizing committee members of the Chinese First National Conference of Occupational Health Surveillance

studying both occupational exposures and life-style factors, particularly smoking. At the end, he proposed a strategy for future research development. 

MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCES


The course, organised by the Faculty of Medicine through its School of Postgraduate Medical Education and Training, commenced in 1995/96 with 3 full-time and 4 part-time Master of Medical Sciences (M.Med.Sc.) students enrolling in the programme. This year the number has substantially increased to 3 full-



Participants, many from the faculty, attended the orientation session for the Master of Medical Sciences

time and 20 part-time candidates. In addition, there are 7 special students who are taking selected modules from specialised fields of study or certain Core Modules, and 49 physicians from the Hospital Authority who are reading either Numerical Methods or Epidemiology and Critical Appraisal Core Modules, as are 19 postgraduate students from the Dental Faculty. The Core Modules are also offered to the 1st-year postgraduate students in the Medical Faculty to enhance their basic research and analytical skills.

The aims of the M.Med.Sc. course are to provide structured training in the basic medical and clinical disciplines to enable postgraduates in Hong Kong and countries in the Asia Pacific Region to embark on specialist studies.

In the M.Med.Sc. programme each student has to take 4 out of 8 core modules, ten specialized modules and writes a dissertation on a research project in the Department offering the specialized module; a minimum of 120 hours is devoted to the research project. 

RECENT MEETINGS...

3rd ANNUAL HKICC and 7th EBV MEETING

The Hong Kong Convention Centre saw the meeting together of scientists and clinicians for the 3rd Hong Kong International Cancer Congress, a yearly meeting in which the Faculty of Medicine plays a major role. This year was unique in that the Congress was held together with the 7th International Meeting for Research into Epstein-Barr Virus and Associated Diseases. As a result there was a great emphasis in the congress on two EBV associated diseases which are common in Hong Kong - nasopharyngeal carcinoma as well as certain types of malignant lymphoma. After a combined first day the two meetings met in different lecture theatres but there was still ample opportunity for clinicians to discuss with basic scientists on recent developments in Epstein-Barr virus biology and therapeutic measures that are available for the treatment of various malignancies. Professor JHC Ho was invited by the EBV Association to give the Henle Lecture and Professor Faith Ho from the Department of



Prof Thomas Tursz, President of EBV Association and Prof GB Ong, President of HKICC, dotting the eyes of the lion.

Pathology delivered the HKICC lecture. Work is already underway on the 4th HKICC which will be held in conjunction with the 14th Asian Pacific Cancer Congress, 16-19th November, 1997. 🏆

FIRST CHINA-HK NURSING CONFERENCE

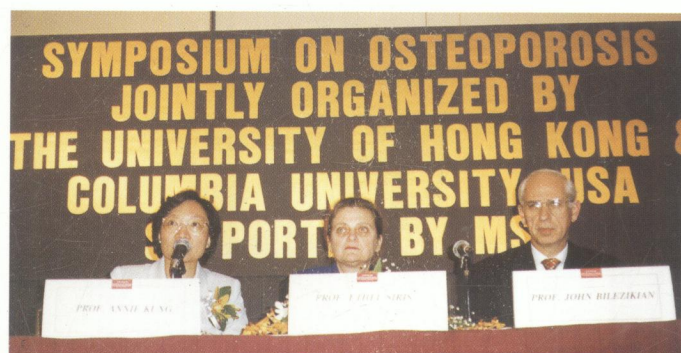
The Department of Nursing Studies is the youngest Department in the Faculty but already has played a large part in the First China-HK Nursing Education Conference which was held at Princess Margaret Hospital in early September. This conference was the first of its kind in the Asian region and provided an important opportunity for mutual enrichment and collaboration among institutions in the region. Keynote speakers from Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong addressed themes in the future direction of nursing education, curriculum innovation and staff development. Above all, the conference allowed a greater understanding of the development of nursing education in the Chinese communities within the region. 🏆



Ms Shirley Wong (Department of Nursing, Chinese University of Hong Kong), Professor Patricia Sullivan (Department of Nursing Studies, University of Hong Kong) and Ms Sally Chan (Queen Elizabeth Hospital) at the China-HK nursing conference

OSTEOPOROSIS WEEKEND

Osteoporosis is one of the selected areas for collaborative research between the Faculty and Columbia University, USA, thanks to a generous grant made possible by Dr and Mrs Clyde Wu. Symposia on osteoporosis were held sequentially at Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Shanghai Second Medical University and then in Hong Kong. The two symposia in Hong Kong were attended by a total of 620 people. Experts from Columbia University, Prof. John Bilezikian and Ethel Siris discussed the pathogenesis, and local data collected by Faculty members from the Departments of Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynaecology



Major speakers at the Symposium on Osteoporosis were Professor Annie Kung, Professor Ethel Siris and Professor John Bilezikian

and Orthopaedics & Traumatology were presented. 🏆

Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

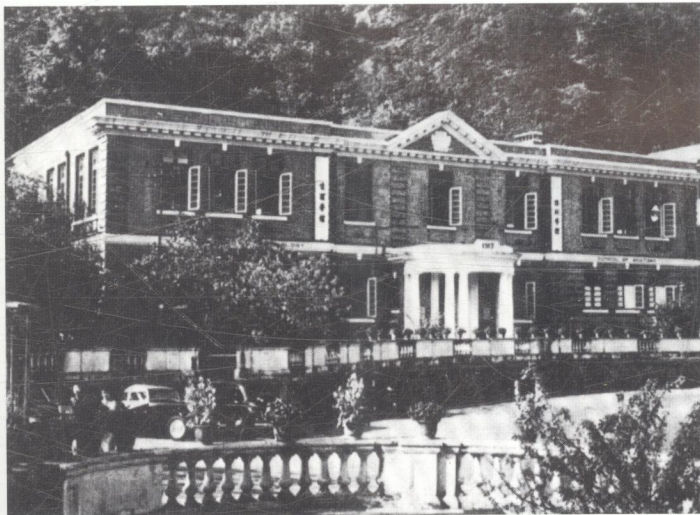
May 1997

Volume 2 Issue 1

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch, and up to date.

110 YEARS AND GOING STRONG

The Faculty of Medicine is celebrating the 110th Anniversary this year. Initially founded as the "Hong Kong College of Medicine for Chinese" by the London Missionary Society in 1887, the Faculty was renamed the "Hong Kong College of Medicine" in 1907. When the University of Hong Kong was established in 1912, it was dissolved and merged into the University as the Faculty of Medicine.



School of Anatomy and Physiology in 1913

Our Faculty has the longest history of fostering and developing western medicine in the East. We aim to train doctors "to cure the sick, to relieve pain, and to comfort the dying".

To mark the 110th Anniversary, a scientific congress will be held from 24 to 26th October, 1997.

The objectives of this congress are:

- to highlight our expertise and achievements in medical teaching, research and service over the past 110 years;
- to publicize our ongoing collaboration with China and the rest of the world in training, education and research;
- to establish the Faculty as the gateway between China and the rest of the world for training, education and research;
- to renew contacts with alumni and friends of the Faculty.

Keynote speakers, deans and representatives from China and overseas medical universities will be invited to

participate. Alumni, students, staff and friends are invited to join in the celebration.

The opening ceremony will be held on 24th October, 1997 from 18:00 to 19:30, including a cocktail reception. A multidisciplinary scientific program will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 25 - 26th. Apart from keynote addresses, there will be 20 symposia covering a wide variety of topics including: cancer biology; genes, cells and medicine; mother, child and perinatology; microbes and the community; quality of life and care; tomorrow's doctors; clinical trials and medical ethics; traditional Chinese medicine; osteoporosis; and transgenic animal research. Video conference sessions will also be incorporated. Free communications are invited. A closing banquet will be held on Sunday, 26th Sunday at the Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Centre. For details, please contact the Faculty office at 28192851.



Department of Anatomy and Physiology in 1997

WHAT'S INSIDE...

- Clinical Trials Centre (pg 2)
- Research (pg 3)
- News & Developments (pg 4)
- Recent Meetings & Forthcoming Events (pg 5-6)

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Starting July 1997, our undergraduate students will be offered an elective introductory course in Chinese medicine. Our Faculty has already been charged with the duty to co-ordinate the research activities in this field both within and outside the University. When the University is ready to offer a degree course in Chinese medicine, our medical school will be actively involved in its organisation. Chinese medicine and other alternative medicine have been popular among the local population and indeed may complement Western medicine at all levels: the philosophy, the concept, and the approach to diseases and treatment. Hong Kong at this historical moment will play a strategic role in the integration of these streams of medicine.

CLINICAL TRIALS CENTRE

Over the past six months, the Clinical Trials Centre of the Faculty has progressed from being a vision of Professor Johan Karlberg to a fully operational body that has an educational programme, outside contracts and a variety of other activities. Professor Karlberg has been appointed as the Director of the Centre and the original working group has been expanded to form an advisory committee with Professor SK Lam as the first chairman.

The initial emphasis of the Centre is on training. Shortage of qualified staff is deemed to be a major constraint in the expansion of clinical trials in Hong Kong. Eventually, the Centre would like to be the hub of multicentre

clinical health studies that involve China and other countries in this region. As part of its promotional and educational activities, the Centre has developed a site on the World Wide Web (<http://www.hku.hk/ctc/>). Other than details of training programmes of the Centre, there are reviews of relevant articles and links to interesting medical sites. The sites will be developed further to provide a valuable resource for anyone interested in clinical trials.

For further enquires, please contact the Centre's Scientific Editor, Joan Marsh through the School of Postgraduate Medical Education and Training (Tel: 2819 9290).



Participants at one of the centre's computer assisted training courses.

CHINESE PAEDIATRIC FORUM

The Department of Paediatrics organized a Chinese Paediatric Forum from 15 to 18th November, 1996 to provide academic and professional exchanges among paediatricians and scientists with a special interest in providing health care for children of Chinese origin. The meeting was well-attended by 400 delegates, including 99 from overseas. The



Poster Demonstration at the Chinese Paediatric Forum.

meeting was successful in enhancing academic and professional exchanges and heightened the awareness of the role that the Hong Kong Paediatric Centre can play in bridging the East and the West and in introducing new technology to China. The forum generated sufficient interest for China to continue the same forum in 1997.

OUR VIEWS...

The aims of this newsletter are to improve the awareness of the activities of members of the Faculty of Medicine, especially the collaborations between departments and to inform outside bodies or individuals about current activities of the Faculty. This newsletter will be published three times a year and sent free to all registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong. It will also be sent to overseas Medical Schools and recent graduates of the Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong. Please forward all correspondence to The Editor, Medical Faculty News,

Faculty of Medicine, 7 Sassoon Road, Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong. Fax enquiries to the Faculty of Medicine (852)-28559742, E-mail: dmwliu@hkucc.hku.hk

Editorial Board:

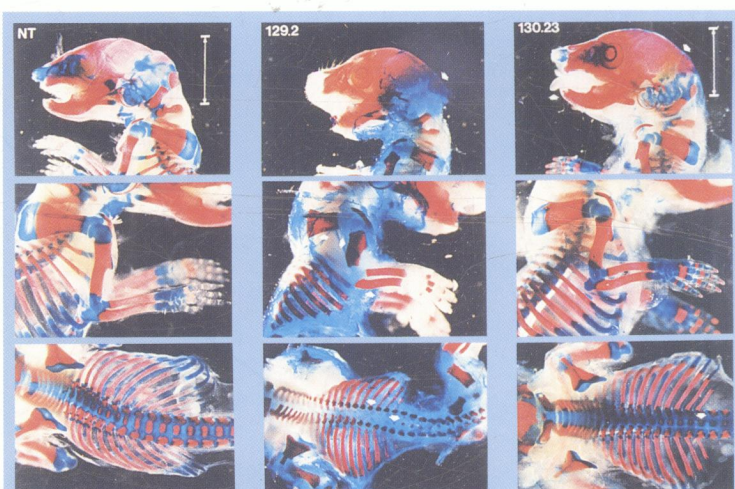
Prof CH Cho
Prof MSM Ip
Dr. JM Nicholls
Dr. HP Sheng

Dr. ETF Ho (Editor)
Prof LCK Low
Prof PL Sullivan
Dr. CM Wong

RESEARCH GRANT COUNCIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Transgenic and Chimaeric Mice and The Control of Collagen Gene Expression During Embryogenesis

This project studied the type II collagen gene expression during development and the effect of mutation on the collagen protein and skeleton formation. Using transgenic mice, Prof K Cheah of the Department of Biochemistry, was able to identify the part of human type II collagen gene which controls synthesis of the collagen protein in the skeleton during fetal development. The mutation studies showed that alteration of the structure of the type II collagen resulted in abnormal development of the skeleton. This will help in the development of therapies for cartilage disorders in the future. Facilities for transgenic technology was set up in the Faculty during this project. This paved the way for the establishment of a Transgenic Centre in 1996.

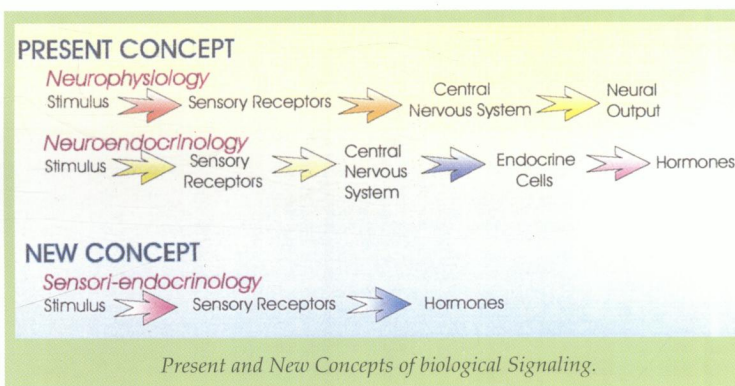


A mutation in the type II collagen gene causing fetal skeletal abnormalities.

A New Concept of Direct Transduction of Sensory Information to Hormones

A grant from the Research Grant Council was awarded to Prof S F Pang, Department of Physiology, in 1989. The above project was also funded partially by a Croucher Foundation Grant.

The objectives of the project were to propose and establish a new concept of signal processing. The study was on sensori-endocrine receptors which on receiving environmental signals, secretes hormones to effector organs. The photoendocrine cells of fish retinas and pineal of birds were studied in the project. Light stimulates the biosynthesis and secretion of melatonin by these photoendocrine cells. The regulation process and the importance to the system was studied.



Cellular and Molecular Studies of Neuronotropic Factor Specific for Retinal Ganglion Cells

This project was conducted by Dr Raymond Chau of Department of Anatomy. The goal of the research was to find the natural substances that support and maintain the healthy growth of the retinal ganglion cells (RGCs) in the visual system. A new neuronotropic factor specific for RGCs was identified and named retinal ganglion neuronotropic factor. A specific monoclonal antibody was then developed and this was found to inhibit the growth of eye tumor and its metastases in mice. Further studies were done to elucidate the development of cells which secrete the factor. The amino acid sequence of the purified factor was studied and cells which produced the factor were cloned. The purified factor is a potential vaccine to prevent eye tumor.



BALB/C mouse with retinoblastoma in the eye chamber.

ALUMNI NEWS...

Prof Lam Shiu-Kam

MBBS, MD, MRCP(UK), FHKAM(Med), FHKCP, FRCP, FRCP(E), FRCP(G), FACP, FACG, FRACP, was awarded the OBE for his contribution to medicine, particularly in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology. Professor Lam is the Head of the Department of Medicine, and Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.



DEVELOPMENTS...

Diabetic Management Training Course

A program to train physician trainees in China has been set up by Professor Karen Lam, Division of Endocrinology. This is a joint project between five major medical schools in China and the Department of Medicine with sponsorship from USA. In China where diabetes is a growing problem, such program will promote the standard of diabetes management in the country.

The trainee will receive six weeks of clinical attachment and small group discussion. A multi-disciplinary approach involves colleagues from various departments of the Faculty and Queen Mary Hospital. Eighteen to twenty four trainees per year for the next three to five years will be selected from major medical schools in China. These trainees will then be able to provide the diabetes management and education of primary care physicians in their own cities. Over time there will be a growing academic and research linkage between this faculty and all the medical schools and teaching hospitals in China.



Ongoing education of physician trainees to keep up-to-date with the advances in management of diabetes.

Medical Curriculum Update

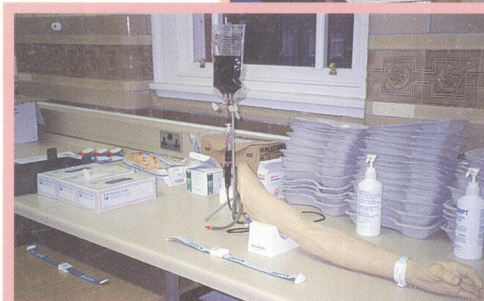
The new medical curriculum will start in September 1997 and its preparatory work is progressing satisfactorily.

In late January this year, representatives from the Faculty, including members of the Foundation Course braved the cold and wet weather of Liverpool, UK, to see how a new curriculum was working there. Liverpool was chosen as it has a similar number of medical students to the University of Hong Kong, had a similar existing undergraduate program to ours, and also was in the first year of transition to a new program.

The group visited many of the departments, gained first-hand experience of problem based learning sessions, and also participated as external examiners in the clinical skills examination. The knowledge gained from this visit will be vital to the smooth transition to the new curriculum.



The visiting delegation from Hong Kong together with some of the curriculum development group at the University of Liverpool.



Simulated blood taking is one of the skills tested in the Clinical Skills examination.

RECENT MEETINGS...

First Molecular Embryology & Transgenic Technology Course in Asia

Transgenic Technology - the transfer of new genetic material (DNA) into the chromosome of plants and animals



Group photo of students with instructors and demonstrators.

is a powerful tool for research with clinical and therapeutic potentials.

In December 1995, a Transgenic Centre funded by the Hong Kong Industry Department, was set up in the Faculty. Its functions initially are to be a training centre, to provide a channel for technology transfer, and to introduce this state-of-the-art technology to the research community and to the biotechnology industry in Hong Kong and China. In the long term, by attracting enough funds, this centre will be the major location for the training and production of transgenic animals as well as a centre for research and development of new technology.

One of the first activities of the Centre was to run a three-week intensive practical and lecture course. This was co-sponsored by the Clyde Wu Fund and the Faculty. The course, a first of its kind in Asia, was

opened on 24th November 1996. The opening ceremony was attended by the Dean Prof SP Chow, ex-dean Prof HK Ma, Mr Francis Ho, the director-General of the Industry Department, Dr and Mrs Clyde Wu, and officiated by Dr Walter Ho and Prof Samuel Chan.

The course was supported by the support of local and overseas experts, postgraduate students, research and laboratory assistant. Dr Patrick Tam of the Children's Medical Research Institute, Sydney, and Dr Robin Lovell-Badge of the National Institute for Medical Research, London, spend more than three weeks of their time to come as co-ordinators for the course.

20 students from ten countries enrolled for the full course and a further 74 local researchers attended the lectures only component of the course. Though the



Course students in the laboratory.

course was intense, it was rewarding to all participants.



Forthcoming Events


- The Department of Medicine is organizing a farewell dinner party in honour of Prof Sir David Todd and Prof Rosie Young's retirement. Both of them, alumni of the Faculty, have contributed significantly to our Faculty and the medical community. The party is scheduled on the 17th June at the Grand Ballroom, Conrad International Hotel. The Faculty would like to take this occasion to wish them the best in their retirement which will be spent overseas. Anyone interested please contact Miss Denise Yu at Tel : 2855 4607 or Fax : 2855 1143 to join the farewell party.



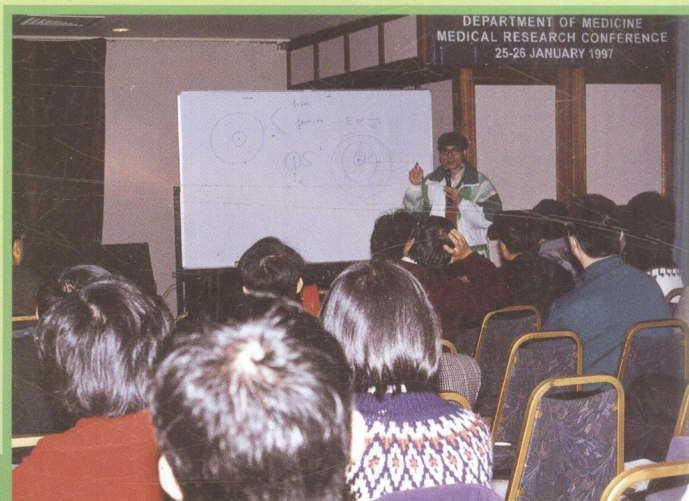
- The Hong Kong Medical Forum for 1997 will have a joint medical and surgical programme covering topics on gastroenterology, hepatology, neurology and nephrology. Local and overseas speakers have been invited. It will be held on 26-27th July. For information and registration please contact the forum co-ordinator, HKMF'97, University Department of Medicine, Queen Mary Hospital, Tel : 2855 4607, Fax : 2855 1143 or E-mail: dwyyu@hku.hk.

RECENT MEETINGS...


Medical Research Conference 97, Department of Medicine

The Medical Research Conference organised by the Department of Medicine was held at the Hilltop Country Club on 25-26th January this year. Apart from members of the department, guests from the Department of Pharmacology, Pathology, Institute of Molecular Biology and other Hospital Departments were invited. Oral and poster presentations selected from 100 submitted were presented. Invited speakers were Prof Peter Fung and Dr George Tsao from the Department of Physics and Anatomy respectively. The results of the department's are published as a supplement of the *Hong Kong Practitioner*. This will be a continuous exercise to encourage local research and collaboration in the medical profession. The conference will be conducted again next year. 

Prof Peter Fung, Department of Physics, on "Photoacoustics and Electron Spin Resonance in Medical Physics."



The International Meeting on Gastroenterology, Endocrinology and Reproduction


This was held on 9-10th December 1996 at the Rayson Huang Theatre, the University of Hong Kong. The meeting was organised by our Faculty, the Chinese University and the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong, the 4th Military Medical University and the Peking Union Medical College of China, in conjunction with the Society for the Study of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Reproduction of Hong Kong. In addition to local participants, there were representatives from China and overseas. 

Poster Presentations at the International Meeting.



Symposium on Chinese Medicine and Public Health


Staff from the Medical and Science Faculties organised the first International Symposium on Chinese Medicine and Public Health. This was held on 23-24th November 1996 and attended by about 150 participants. Speakers were invited from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, UK, and USA to speak on the theory and usage of Chinese

medicine, its scientific basis, results from clinical studies, education and training, and government policies. As part of the Faculty's plans to promote work in Chinese medicine, collaboration with the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals is being formally established to enhance research and education. 

Workshop on Opioid Research Across the Strait

Endogenous opioids were first discovered in the mid-1970s. These opioid peptides are first known to cause analgesia and euphoria, but other effects such as cardiac protection and hormone release have been attributed to endogenous opioid release. The need to facilitate interchange of ideas and research findings, lead to the first Orientation Workshop on Opioid Research across the Strait organized jointly by the Department of Physiology, the University of Hong Kong and the Department of Biology of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). This was held from 15 to 18th

December 1996 in HKUST. Participants of this workshop included 23 invited speakers from Hong Kong and overseas, and they presented their research findings followed by discussions. The speakers included four members of National Academy of Sciences and Prof TM Wong and Dr NS Wong of our faculty.

There were also two open forum sessions during which participants discussed research and future collaboration. As most participants felt that this interchange of ideas was much needed and very useful, a future workshop is planned for Beijing in 1998. 

Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

October 1997

Volume 2 Issue 2

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch, and up to date.

The New Medical Curriculum

After an intensive period of planning and preparation, the new curriculum of the Faculty of Medicine was introduced in September.

Underlying the curriculum design are some broad principles that we think will help prepare our students for practice in the new millennium

- Active, student-centred learning with small-group tutorials
- Integrated curriculum
- Early clinical contact
- Increased use of community resources
- Use of information technology
- Core and options approach with special study "elective" modules

What does the curriculum look like?

The course will last for ten semesters (S1-S10), spread over five years.

	Sept	Dec	Jan	June	July	Sept
1st year	Foundation (S1)		System (S2)	SSM		Holiday
2nd year	System (S3)		System (S4)	SSM		Holiday
3rd year	System (S5)		Integration course + clerkship (S6)	SSM		Holiday
4th year	Clerkship (S7)		Specialty Clerkship (S8)	SSM		Holiday
5th year	Specialty Clerkship (S9)		SSM (S10)	Revision		

*S = Semester

Foundation course

The Foundation Course will take place during the whole of the first semester. It is designed to provide an introductory overview of the structure and function of the human body, based around the theme of a "hierarchy of systems".

It begins with a two-week block, composed of lectures and practical sessions, to provide students with an introduction to the biological and behavioural sciences. The remainder of the course is broken into two week modules. During each module, students will study a health-care problem in order to explore the hierarchy of systems from molecules, cells, tissues, organs and major body systems to the patient as an individual, and as a member of a family and a community. They will examine the interactions between the different levels in the system, and so take a holistic view of human biology. They will also begin to acquire the basic skills of self-directed learning, critical thinking, and clinical and communication skills. Community visits will help the students put the care of patients into a social and economic context, and basic concepts in medical ethics will be introduced.

Systems-based course

The systems-based course begins in the second semester of the first year, and lasts until part way through the first semester of the third year.

The system-based units are concerned with the structure and function of the organ systems of the body, in the context of the patient as an individual and as a member of a wider population group. The key characteristic of this portion of the course is the integrated approach to biological, behavioural and population sciences. Clinical skills will be learned throughout the course, and linked to the system under study.

Each system block will last five weeks. During the first weeks, lecture and practical sessions will provide students with an overview of the system. In each of the remaining four weeks, the students will study a health-care problem designed to allow an integrated understanding of the system under study.

The sequence in which the systems will be examined is as follows:

- Semester 2 (year 1) : Mechanisms of Disease, Cardiovascular System, Respiratory System
- Semester 3 (year 2) : Gastrointestinal System, Renal & Genito-urinary System
- Semester 4 (year 2) : Endocrine System, Haematology/Immunology, Musculoskeletal System
- Semester 5 (year 3) : Central Nervous System

Integration Course

Still "under construction", this course will allow students to integrate the information they have acquired during the systems-based units.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the theme of Medicine and Society. A "life-cycle" approach will be taken, with two-week modules during which students will explore in depth significant health-care problems in Hong Kong.

Students will gain an understanding of population health, the burden of illness in the community, and the influence of economics and politics on the provision of appropriate care. The skills of students in the critical appraisal of the medical literature will be reinforced. Clinical and communication skills will also be integrated to a level that will allow students to participate fully in the clerkship.

Clinical Clerkship

The clinical clerkship will begin in Semester 6, the sec-

ond semester of the third year, and continue during Semesters 7, 8 and 9.

During the clerkship students will be directly involved in the day to day care of patients. They will be expected to understand the basic concepts that underlie their patients' problems, and apply the knowledge they have gained in earlier parts of the course, but there will be a greater emphasis on the clinical aspects of care. Students will learn to apply their communication and clinical skills in an increasingly sophisticated fashion.

They will undertake rotations in a variety of hospital-based clinical disciplines, and will also be exposed to ambulatory care and community-based primary care. The continued integration of basic and clinical sciences will be fostered by ready access to basic science teachers and resources.

Electives

Electives (Special Study Modules) are an integral part of the curriculum, and will allow students to explore specific areas either as a result of gaps they have identified in their knowledge, or in response to a special interest. They are intended to provide students the opportunity to study certain areas in greater depth than is allowed by the core course, and to encourage the development of scientific thinking. Students will be expected to undertake literature reviews, plan and conduct simple research studies, and develop skills in writing and presentation.

Prof. Tony Dixon
Academic Advisor, NMC

Dean's Message

The new medical curriculum has started on September 15, 1997. This is particularly meaningful when a spate of medical incidences spurred the public to demand a relook at the training of medical students, interns and doctors. Despite very detail planning, tutor training, and injection of resources, we anticipate problems ahead. However, with our enthusiastic staff, high-quality students, and commitment from the Faculty, University, and UGC, this medical reform is guaranteed to succeed. We are carefully documenting, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting back on our experience which will be very helpful to other institutions in Hong Kong, the rest of China, and our neighbouring countries.

Our Views...

The aims of this newsletters are to improve the awareness of the activities of members of the Faculty of Medicine, especially the collaborations between departments and to inform outside bodies or individuals about current activities of the Faculty. This newsletter will be published three times a year and sent free to all registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong. It will also be sent to overseas Medical Schools and recent graduates of the Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong. Please forward all correspondence to The Editor, Medical Faculty News, Faculty of Medicine, 7 Sassoon Road, Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong. Fax enquires to the Faculty of Medicine (852)-28161469, E-mail: dmwliu@hkucc.hku.hk

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Dr. J.M. Nicholls

We would like to express our thanks to Dr Edward Ho, the past Editor.



Appointment of Four New Associate Deans



Professor Grace Tang
Associate Dean
(Community Relations)

Professor Tang works in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology with special interest in reproductive medicine. As Associate Dean of Community Relations, the task of her appointment is to enhance external relations with the general community as well as the medical profession, especially with our alumni. It is the Medical Faculty's wish to establish liaison and dialogue with various sectors of the community so that its work can be known and be assisted by input both from the lay public and the medical profession.



Professor Raymond Liang
Associate Dean
(Clinical Services)

Professor Liang is haematologist/oncologist in the Department of Medicine. As Associate Dean of Clinical Services, he would assist the Dean and the HCE of QMH to handle matters related to clinical service of University doctors. His current efforts are focused on the redevelopment plan of Queen Mary Hospital, and the funding of teaching hospitals.



Professor Y.L. Lau
Associate Dean
(Education)

Professor Y.L. Lau is a paediatrician. He graduated from the University of Glasgow, Scotland. Before joining The University of Hong Kong, he has spent 16 years in U.K. His clinical duties are in immunology, haematology and transplantation. His research interests are in neonatal immune response and immunodeficiency. He is currently President of the Hong Kong Paediatric Society. As Associate Dean of Education, he would be a key person in looking after the Undergraduate Education Reform.



Professor Y.S. Chan
Associate Dean
(Research)

Professor Y.S. Chan is a neuroscientist in the Department of Physiology with research interests in vestibular system, neural regulation of blood pressure and neuronal properties during nerve regeneration. He is currently Chairman of the Institute of Biology (Hong Kong Branch) and Council Member of the Federation of Asian-Oceanian Neuroscience Societies. As Associate Dean of Research, Professor Chan is Chairman of the Faculty Higher Degrees Committee and oversees the administration of research activities and post-graduate education.

Academic Collaboration ...

Neuroscience Research Centre : Pacific Education And Research Liaison (PEARL)

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) together with Queen Mary Hospital, and The University of British Columbia (UBC) together with Vancouver Hospital & Health Science Centre and B.C.'s Children's Hospital, Canada, have embarked on a partnership to answer one of the most challenging questions for the 21st century, namely to discover new therapies for disabling diseases affecting the human brain. We have developed a unique approach, uniting these centres across the Pacific in an "institute without walls". Currently, neurological and neuropsychiatric diseases are a huge burden to society, and as the population ages, the projected needs will increase. This programme has the potential to deliver, through research and development, better health care for both our aging population and our children.

The Centre will have three principal components, as outlined below:

1) Research projects involving:

- (i) investigation of neurodegenerative disorders and neural repair;
- (ii) functional mapping of the human brain, and
- (iii) molecular and genetic bases of neurological disorders.

2) A training and outreach programme devoted to disseminating knowledge to society and to educating leading neuroscience researchers and clinicians.

3) Core facilities dedicated to implementing advanced technologies in brain research. These facilities would include those dedicated to molecular biology, to functional evaluation of the nervous system, and to brain imaging.

A symposium on Neuroscience Research was held in Hong Kong in April this year to initiate the collaboration. Efforts to solicit funding for his collaboration will start soon.

Osteoporosis

The Faculty has established collaborative activities with the Columbia University, USA in the area of osteoporosis and metabolic bone diseases in the past two years. Two annual joint scientific symposium were held in Hong Kong and another one at Columbia University, with faculties from the two universities presenting data collected from each centre. Collaborative research is currently underway to compare the characteristics of the genetic differences between two ethnic groups of patients each at risk for metabolic bone diseases.

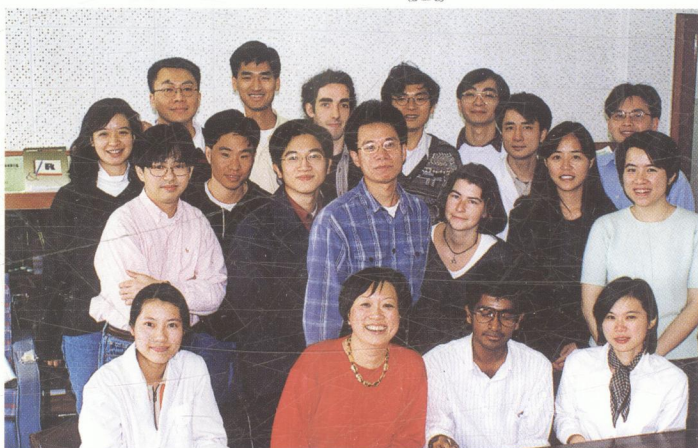


Congratulations to...

Professor Kathryn S.E. Cheah

Professor Kathryn S.E. Cheah (B.Sc. Hons, London University; Ph.D. Cambridge University), formerly a Reader in the Department of Biochemistry and a member of the Faculty since 1983, has been appointed to the Chair of Biochemistry. Professor Cheah is a Malaysian, which accounts for her passion for spicy food and quaint Cantonese accent. She is married with one child.

Her major research interests are in understanding how genes work during embryonic development with emphasis on the molecular mechanisms used in skeletal formation in health and disease. She has also been actively engaged in promoting greater awareness of the power of transgenic technology for basic and applied research in Hong Kong. Professor Cheah dreams that one day our Faculty will take a place amongst the best medical schools in the world for biomedical research. Lobbying for improved levels of funding, fostering a strong research culture, greater collaborations and interactions between clinicians and basic scientists, as well as encouraging young staff in their research are therefore her other priorities.



Research group as at June 1997.

This is an international mix of members, coming from Hong Kong, Shanghai, Canada, UK and Sri Lanka.

Professor W.K. Lam



Professor Lam Wah Kit (MD, FRCP, FRCPE, FRCPG, FRACP, FHKCP, FHKAM) has been appointed Professor of Respiratory Medicine in the University of Hong Kong from 1 April 1997. He first joined the University as lecturer in Medicine in 1975 and is now Chief of Respiratory Medicine and Deputy Head in the University Department of Medicine at Queen Mary Hospital. His main research interest is in lung cancer, particularly in genetic studies in non-smoking Chinese women with lung cancer and cytotoxic chemotherapy in advanced lung cancer, and also collaborates in studies of clinical scoring systems in ICU, lung function indices in silicosis, bronchiectasis, and sleep apnoea. He sits in the editorial boards of *Respirology* and *Lung Cancer*. He pioneered professional exchanges with respiratory academics in mainland China

Professor Kar-Neng Lai

Professor K.N. Lai (MD and DSc. HKU, FRCP, FRACP, FACP), formerly a Chair Professor in the Department of Medicine, the Chinese University of Hong Kong has been appointed to the Chair of Nephrology and Professor of Medicine. Professor Lai is a graduate of this University and had received training in Australia and U.K. He was a Fellow of the Corpus Christi College in Cambridge during his sabbatical in U.K. He is on the editorial board of international journals including *Kidney International* and *Nephron*. He has a passion for Chinese art and golf.

Professor Lai's major interests are in the disease mechanism of IgA nephropathy (a common form of kidney disease worldwide) and the biology of peritoneal membrane in relation to peritoneal dialysis treatment. Professor Lai aims at developing new research programme and facility in clinical immunology and cell biology at the Faculty. He believes that the Faculty should foster training of young clinicians and scientists with laboratory research to complement their clinical management for new treatment strategy.

Professor F.Lieh-Mak

Professor Felice Lieh-Mak, Chair of Psychiatry, was made a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in June in the final round of accolades from the British Sovereign for the territory. A former Dean of the Faculty and since 1981 the Head of the Department of Psychiatry, Professor Lieh-Mak is actively involved in a wide range of public and community services. She was an Executive Councillor from 1992 to 1997, and has recently been elected as Chairman of the Medical Council.

Professor J.S.T. Sham

Professor J.S.T. Sham, Reader, Department of Radiation Oncology has been recently appointed as Justice of the Peace.

since 1982, and is now collaborating with Shanghai in lung cancer genetic studies.

He was the founding Hon Secretary (87-89) and President (89-91) of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society and Founding Chairman of the Hong Kong Lung Foundation (1996). He is heavily involved in postgraduate medical training and examination in Hong Kong, his overseas professional linkage is extensive, being Governor of the American College of Chest Physicians (HK & Macau Chapter), College Advisor for Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Asia-Pacific Committee Member of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and Founding Executive Committee Member in the Asia-Pacific Society of Respiriology. Prof. Lam also sits on a number of Committee of the University and the Medical Council of Hong Kong.

Exciting News ...

Traditional Chinese Medicine

Traditional Chinese Medicine is an exciting area for research and the University has recently set up a Centre to coordinate various areas of research in Traditional Chinese Medicine. An amount of \$3,000,000 have been donated to the University for supporting the research activities in the area of Traditional Chinese Medicine.



Department of Paediatrics

Mrs. Ann Walkovik, daughter of Sir Joseph Hotung represented the family to make a donation of HK\$2.5 million to top up the Edward Sai Kim Hotung Paediatric Education and Research Fund. The Picture on the right shows, Professor C.Y. Yeung and other staff of the department receiving the donation from Mrs. Ann Walkovik.



HKU Medical Alumni

In response to the Dean's letter, 694 Alumni have agreed to join. The inauguration ceremony will take place at the 110th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on 26th October 1997 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. For the first time in 110 years, we will have an organised group whose concerted effort will no doubt keep the Faculty moving ahead in bigger and firmer strides. It is exciting to see so many of our alumni being so enthusiastic. Many activities of the Faculty such as teaching, research and Northcote site development will benefit from the alumni's input. The Faculty is still looking forward for more alumni to join. Please ring, fax or e-mail the Faculty Office anytime to send in your name.



Gift from Sir Joseph Hotung to Department of Paediatrics

Hong Kong Surgical Forum

17 - 18 January 1998

Venue : Underground Lecture Theatre,
New Clinical Building, QMH, H.K.

Topics :

- Bioethical issues
- Colorectal surgery
- Multi-organ failure
- Pancreatitis
- Trauma
- Vascular surgery

Details From : Forum Secretary
Hong Kong Surgical Forum
Department of Surgery
Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2855 4990
Fax: (852) 2818 1186
Email: mededcon@hkucc.hku.hk

14th Asia Pacific Cancer Conference (APCC) 4th Hong Kong International Cancer Congress (HKICC) 16 - 19 November 1997

The 14th APCC will be held in conjunction with the 4th HKICC at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Asia Pacific Cancer Conference is a prestigious oncology meeting in the region. It is expected that more than 1,500 overseas and local delegates will be attending this joint Meeting in Hong Kong. Over 50 renown overseas speakers have been invited to participate in 18 state-of-the-art lectures and 20 symposia. Four concurrent programmes on psychosocial oncology, hospice care, oncology nursing and COPES Workshop have been organized to ensure a highly educational program for nurses, social workers and other medical personnels.



Congress Secretariat :
Department of Surgery, The University of Hong Kong, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong.
Tel : (852) 2818 0232 / (852) 2855 4235, Fax : (852) 2818 1186 / (852) 2855 1897, E-mail : mededcon@hkucc.hku.hk

Asian Clinical Trials Conference 1998 in Hong Kong

The forthcoming Asian Clinical Trials Conference 1998 will be held 25-28 October 1998 at the new Convention and Exhibition Centre in Hong Kong. This important event is jointly hosted by the Clinical Trials Centre, Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong and The National Medical Research Council, Singapore. The conference will be attended by 500 delegates from Asia, Europe and North America. The Conference will, for the first time, bring together clinicians, pharmacologists, scientists, academics, and pharmaceutical personnel as well as personnel from contract research organizations to enhance communication, cooperation and improvement in the quality of clinical trials in Asia.



Conference Secretariat :
The Federation of Medical Societies of HK, 4/F., Duke of Windsor Social Services Bldg., 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.
Tel : (852) 2527 8898, Fax : (852) 2866 7530, E-mail : sigfmshk@netvigator.com

110th Anniversary

The response to the 110th Anniversary Celebration of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong, which will be held on 24-26 October, 1997, is very enthusiastic. Nearly 400 participants from Mainland China have accepted our invitation to attend. Over 300 local and overseas health professionals will participate.

The Scientific Congress consists of Opening Ceremony, Symposia, Keynote Addresses, Scientific Exhibition which will be held at the main University campus and the Celebration Banquet will be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Opening Ceremony will be held on Friday, 24 October, 1997 at 6:00 pm at Loke Yew Hall of our university, followed by a unique multi-cultural food extravaganza and cocktail reception. The Honourable Dr T.L. Yang, Pro-Chancellor of HKU and Executive Councillor, has been invited to attend our Opening Ceremony as the Officiating Guest.

With the assistance of the symposia conveyors, all scientific sessions are well-organized with contribution from mainland, local and overseas academics. 15 symposia will be held during the Scientific Congress, topics of which will include genes, cells and medicine, and paediatric rehabilitation etc. Dean Chow has especially organized two sessions for Deans from major universities worldwide to share with us their experience and views on medical curriculum reform and resourcing of medical schools. In addition to the multidisciplinary symposia, sixteen prominent international keynote speakers have been invited to deliver 45-minute addresses. A wide range of topics will be covered,

from general medicine to health issues and medical education.

With the sponsorship of 19 esteemed pharmaceutical and medical equipment companies, a scientific exhibition will be held at the Games Room of the Chong Yuet Ming Amenities Center from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on October 25 and 26. We would like to thank them for their kind support to this meaningful event. All alumni, students, staff and friends are welcome to attend the scientific programme.

Last but not the least, the Celebration Banquet will be held at 8:00 pm on 26 October at the Convention Hall of the Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Centre. We are delighted to have the Honourable Donald Tsang, Financial Secretary, as the Officiating Guest of the evening. Ms Francis Yip will deliver a tri-lingual singing performance to our guests, alumni and academics.

With the aim of renewing contacts with alumni and friends of the Faculty, the dinner is free of charge. However, please be reminded that advance-reservation should be done with the Faculty Office no later than October 16. There will not be any on-site registration. Being the oldest Faculty in the tertiary institutions in Hong Kong, the occasion will be an excellent opportunity for alumni reunion.

To mark the 110th Anniversary of the Faculty, we have prepared some unique souvenirs for your collection or giveaway. They include men and ladies watches in golden colour at HK\$250 per pair or HK\$150 each, a blue tie at HK\$100 each, a flexible metal calendar at HK\$80 each. Souvenirs will be available for sale in mid October at the Faculty Office. For details, please contact the Faculty Office at 2819 2851.



Recent Events ...

Farewell Dinner Party

A farewell dinner party in honour of the retirement of Professor Sir David Todd and Professor Rosie Young was held on 17th June at Conrad International Hotel. The dinner was organized by the Department of Medicine and the cocktail reception was hosted by the Faculty of Medicine. Over 300 friends, past students, colleagues and guests gathered to say a fond farewell to the two professors. The evening was spent with light speeches, a special draw with presents donated by the two professors, photograph show, student days photo quiz and a skit show. A souvenir book was printed for the occasion with tributes to the two professors with past and present photographs. On behalf of everyone, we wish them the best in their future endeavours, be it a quiet retirement or a busy work routine.



Farewell dinner

Hong Kong Medical Forum'97

This year the Hong Kong Medical Forum'97 and the Hong Kong Surgical Forum - Summer 1997 were held concurrently on the weekend of the 26th - 27th July at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. The Medical Forum focused on gastroenterology, hepatology, neurology and nephrology. Distinguished overseas and local speakers were invited to share with us the latest developments and results in their field of research. The two Forums held a combined surgical and medical symposium on the two topics, which proved to be a great success, and the organizers have plans to continue to hold the July Forums in the same format in the future.



MEDICAL FACULTY NEWS



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

February 1998

Volume 3 Issue 1

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch and up to date.

110th Anniversary

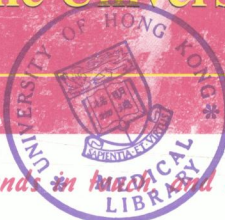
The University of Hong Kong, like any old established institution, has been labelled too often a bastion of conservatism. Its oldest faculty, the Faculty of Medicine, with its predecessor, the Hong Kong College of Medicine (which precedes the university by 25 years) has likewise been accused.

Our Faculty had a culture where its members were dedicated, hardworking and scholarly, but not blasé about our achievements or successes, although quite a few had excelled regionally or internationally. Thus conservatism may have been a veritable stigma.

As a measure of success judged by an external and unbiased body, *Asia Week* ranked The University of Hong Kong third in a recent survey of Asia's top fifty centres of higher learning. It would not be unreasonable to assume that our Faculty contributed significantly to achieve this ranking.

In the retreat program in 1996 where the Dean, Associate Deans, and Heads of Departments took stock of our future missions, roles, and the way ahead, a decision was undertaken that our Faculty should come out confidently from our carapace and project our image, achievements and successes openly. One of the functions decided was to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the founding of our Faculty with a multidisciplinary Scientific Congress, and social functions (including an Opening Ceremony and a Celebration Banquet).

In line with the recent adoption of the integrated and problem-based learning curriculum of our Faculty, and to draw our present and past students (both undergraduate and postgraduate), staff members, alumni (both local and overseas) together in scholarly and academic interaction, the scientific program was planned to have 16 keynote addresses, and 20 symposia, which transgressed the boundaries of single disciplines, but the topics represented medical and health issues which are the forefronts of health care providers and patients. It was a somewhat Herculean task requiring the goodwill, cooperation, and hardwork of many members of all the departments in the Faculty, and the support staff of the Faculty.



Because of our special relationship with mainland China, and the fact that many clinicians and health scientists from there have trained or have had academic exchange with members of our Faculty, we invited 400 of them to participate. Unfortunately, there were visa problems which prevented a number of them from attending.



With a stroke of luck, the Opening Ceremony went off with a bang, attended by over 900 people, and was linked by live telecast to the First Shanghai Medical University which was having its own 70th anniversary celebration. A drum performance by 8 staff members had definite professional flavor, and together with a formal procession added much lustre to the occasion. 700

participants interacted in the Scientific Congress.

The Celebration Banquet, officiated by Sir Donald Tsang, Financial Secretary, was the highlight of the social functions, with 1000 people attending, a large proportion of which was our local alumni. This was extremely heartening, and the

opportunity was taken to formally inaugurate the Hong Kong University Medical Alumni Group. One of our oldest living alumni, Dr Lee Shu-pui, a nonagenarian, spoke for the alumni at the inauguration.

There may have been a few hitches here and there; there may have been difficulties of communication with a

few of our alumni; there may have been isolated instances of not catering to the whims of some participants. But the attitude of the organizing committee, in particular, the support staff of the Faculty office was certainly not perfunctory. Indeed, the general feeling was an overwhelming enthusiasm amongst the organizers and the participants, both of which ensured the success of this auspicious occasion. 🇭🇰



By Professor J.C.Y. Leong
Chairman
Organizing Committee

Message from the Dean

Our medical students have always been exposed to private outpatient settings during their general practice training. Starting from January 1998, they will also be rotated to private hospitals for specialist practice exposure. This will enhance their understanding of an important aspect of medical practice in Hong Kong, particularly in communication skill. We are extremely grateful to our friends in private practice. They have taken extra effort to uphold a high standard of education for our students. In the long run, an integration of the public and private sector, starting in the field of undergraduate and post-graduate training and research, will elevate the standard of medicine to a new level.




Starting from March 1, 1998, Professor G.W.K. Tang from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology will take over as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. For the past 25 years, she has taken an active role in her own specialty both locally and internationally, being members and chairmen of over 20 committees and organisations. Her community service commitment brought another 10 organisations on her shoulder. She is also well respected by the medical profession in general, being elected purely on her own to the Hong Kong Medical Council and the Council of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. As Associate Dean in the past year, she was deeply involved with the development of the new curriculum and instrumental in our new collaboration with the private hospital, overseas institutions, and our alumni. There cannot be a better person than her to lead our medical school in this critical stage of development.

Alumni News...

Alumni Progress

Since the inauguration of Hong Kong University Medical Alumni Group at the 110th anniversary celebration banquet of our Faculty in October 1997, 880 medical graduates have joined. Amongst these replies, 280 of them have expressed interest in participating in teaching and 210 in research. For the re-development of the preclinical campus at the Sassoon Road site of the Northcote College of Education, 78 medical graduates are willing to assist, e.g. in site planning and in soliciting funds to match the construction costs. The top floor (500 sqm) of this New Medical Complex is planned to serve as an Amenities Alumni Floor which will be used to provide a wide range of services for our medical graduates.


The Dean held a meeting with a few alumni in December, 97 to discuss the New Medical Complex development plan. Invaluable suggestions were received and we will put these comments into action. We welcome any suggestion in any other aspects, such as desirable facilities and services to be provided at the alumni floor. If you have any comments or ideas on the resources for the construction of the New Medical Complex, or if any Alumni wish to join the Group anytime, please let us know by email at dmwliu@hkucc.hku.hk or fax at 2974-0678. 



New Medical Complex

HKU Library Access


If you are interested in using the Hong Kong University libraries, including the Medic Library, you may wish to apply for a library card at the Main Library in the Main University Campus. The procedures are :-


- To identify yourself with your name and year of graduation. They will be able to know if you are a HKU Alumni.
- If you wish to borrow books from the Library, you need to pay a deposit of HK\$500 for a "borrower's card". (The deposit is waived if you are a holder of Hong Kong University gold visa card issued by the Bank of East Asia.)
- If you only wish to read any books in the Library, a "reading ticket" will be issued for your access to use the library facilities (including on-line literature search) except borrowing books. Photo-copying cards can be purchased with presentation of your reading ticket. 

 The University of Hong Kong

Alumni Directory

The Faculty is compiling an Alumni Directory which will be circulated to our medical graduates. We are seeking alumni's approval to put their contact details (name, address, home/office phone and fax number) on the directory. It would be highly appreciated if alumni could forward us their latest information by fax at 2974-0678 or mail to 1/F, Patrick Manson Building, 7 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, HK in attention to Diana Liu.

Any alumni who do not wish to disclose their information, please let us know by fax at 2974-0678. If we do not hear from you by June 10, 1998, we shall assume your approval. 

In a joint effort of both Faculties of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, a 26-series live programme namely the "Medical Hotline" has been presented by the Cable TV on every Tuesday at Cable News, Channel One from October 7, 1997 to April 7, 1998. It aims to provide a platform for better communication between home viewers and medical experts with ample time for phone-in enquires. 



Professor S.P. Chow spoke about the new M.B.B.S. curriculum at the first series of the "Medical Hotline".

Donations

1. Mr and Mrs Lee Man-chiu have donated HK\$1,000,000 to the Department of Medicine to set up the "SK Lam Medical Foundation Fund" for the purpose of promoting education and research in the Department.
2. Mr Lowell and Mrs Phyllis Chang have donated HK\$100,000 in contribution to the Phyllis and Lowell Chang Development Fund for the year 1997-98.
3. Mr Leung Kwok-tze has donated a sum of HK\$3,000,000 in the area of Traditional Chinese Medicine.
4. The Organon (HK) Ltd. has donated HK\$20,000 annually to the Centre of Human Reproduction for the establishment of an Organon Grant in support of postgraduate students and trainees in various academic activities related to human reproduction.

Professor Sir David Todd Medical Education and Research Fund in Medicine


Following Sir David's retirement, the Department of Medicine has established the Professor Sir David Todd Medical Education and Research Fund in Medicine to commemorate Sir David's unparalleled contributions to the development of medicine in Hong Kong, and to continue his mission into the next millennium. Two major objectives of the Fund are to enhance the distinction of teaching of medicine in Hong Kong, and to nurture excellence in research in the Department of Medicine. The Fund is being managed by the University of Hong Kong Foundation for Educational Development and Research which is dedicated to enhancing the standard of excellence of our University in the years ahead. For donations please contact the Foundation at Tel : 2857-8585 / 2859-7063.

Telemedicine is a rapidly maturing discipline that uses telecommunication to provide medical expertise, education, training and services to distant sites.

On November 11, 1997 the Faculty conducted its first ever live telemedicine session with Shanghai Medicine University using the group video conference (VC) system installed in the Patrick Manson Building seminar room. The local end was manned by Dr K.W. Chan, Associate Professor, Pathology Dept, and Dr W. Chiu, Honorary Clinical Assistant Professor, Paediatrics Department. The patient discussed was a 6-year-old boy who had on-and-off oedema (generalised swelling) and proteinuria for 4.5 years, since the age of 2. After referral to the Paediatric Nephrology Department of the Shanghai Medical University, investigations confirmed heavy proteinuria, hypo-albuminaemia and significant impairment of kidney function. There was significant metabolic acidosis in the blood chemistry. Ultrasound kidney showed bilateral small kidneys for age.

A renal biopsy was performed and reviewed via the VC system by Dr K.W. Chan at the session. It showed a mesangio-proliferative glomerulonephritis on light microscopy, and immunofluorescence study was negative. Dr Chan was of the opinion that with a strong family history of kidney disease on the maternal side, the clinical picture was strongly suggestive of hereditary nephropathy, or Alport's syndrome, and he would be verbally confirmed through face-to-face videoconference by the pathologist in Shanghai.

Dr W. Chiu also considered the same diagnosis. He made suggestions to paediatricians in Shanghai concerning the management of the patient, in particular concerning the nutritional management. He also suggested that an adequate caloric intake and a moderate protein allowance, must be given to the patient to ensure growth. In concluding the consultation session, Dr Chiu emphasized that one of the important causes of poor growth in renal failure was inadequate intake. The telemedicine consultation lasted for 1.5 hours.

The above summarizes a typical consultation session. The potential of telemedicine awaits further exploration by colleagues. If you would like more information on the Faculty's VC facilities, or if you are interested in developing telemedicine applications, please contact Mr Wilson Chan of Faculty Office at 2819-9219 or wwschan@hkucc.hku.hk. 




Congratulations to...

Professor C.P. Lau

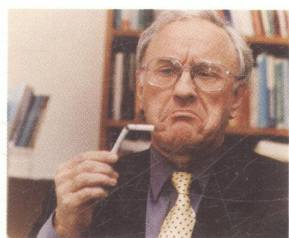
Double congratulations to Professor Lau Chu-pak, (MBBS HK; MD HK; MRCP; FCCP; FRCP (Edin, Lond and Glas); FACC; FHKAM; FHKCP; FHKAM (Med); FRACP; FESC) who has recently received the 1997 Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award and appointed as Personal Professor in Medicine in the University of Hong Kong from July 1, 1997. He is presently the Chief of Division of Cardiology at the University Department of Medicine, Queen Mary Hospital and Honorary Senior Consultant and Programme Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prevention Centre at the Tung Wah Hospital. He is also a Councillor of the Hong Kong College of Cardiology, and Honorary Advisor of the Community Rehabilitation Network and the patients' self-help group "Care for the Heart",



Professor Lau Chu-pak in the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award Ceremony.

Professor Lau is known for his work in cardiac pacing and pioneering research in treating abnormal heart rhythm. He has published over 100 international papers, is author of a book and many chapters in text books on heart disease. He acts as editor or reviewer of 8 different journals. Recognising the importance of rehabilitation and prevention, Professor Lau has set up the first comprehensive heart disease rehabilitation and prevention programme in Hong Kong, and facilitated rehabilitation through patients' mutual help. Through establishment of inter-functional group to design long term strategy, he hopes to enhance heart health at the community level. 

Professor A.J. Hedley




Professor A.J. Hedley, Head of the Department of Community Medicine, was appointed Chairman of the Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) in October 1997. He has been a member of the council for three years and an active advocate for tobacco control and smoking prevention for over 30 years. He has recently expressed the view that the medical and other health professions do far too little in terms of advocacy for the prevention of disease caused by tobacco. Professor Hedley says the first priority is to prevent the continuing recruitment of children and young people to smoking. He recently announced the promotion by COSH of a new Children's Charter on the prevention of injury by tobacco. Other priorities include the prevention of infiltration of science and medicine and welfare charities by the tobacco industry. He is advocating the adoption by Faculty, of a code of practice designed to prevent the development of links between the industry and the health sciences communities, which threatens to undermine our independence and give credibility to tobacco marketeers.

Professor Karen S.L. Lam




Professor Karen S.L. Lam, (MBBS (Hons); MD; FRCP (Lond & Edin); FRACP; FHKCP; FHKAM (Med)), has been appointed to a Personal Chair in Medicine from July 1, 1997. She joined the University of Hong Kong as a lecturer in 1983 and became a Reader in the Department of Medicine in 1991.

Professor Lam's research interest is in endocrinology, in particular neuroendocrinology and diabetes. The current research interests of her group include basic and clinical studies on the pathophysiology and treatment of disorders of growth hormone secretion, and the role of genetic and environmental factors in the pathogenesis of diabetes and its chronic complications. Currently she is Chief of Endocrinology in the University Department of Medicine, Queen Mary Hospital, and founding Director of the KK Leung Diabetes Centre, the first diabetes centre in Hong Kong. She is also the Chairman of the Specialty Board in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism of the Hong Kong College of Physicians, and the first President of Diabetes Hongkong, the only diabetes association jointly founded and run by health professionals, patients and their family member in Hong Kong. To promote diabetes care and education in China where the prevalence of diabetes has increased 3-fold in the past 10 years, she has recently started a 5-year program to provide training for physicians with interest in diabetes working in teaching hospitals in major cities in China. 


Professor Wilfred C.G. Peh



Professor Wilfred C.G. Peh, (MBBS (Sing); DMRD; FRCR; FAMS; FHKCR; FHKAM (Radiology)), has recently been promoted to Reader at the Department of Diagnostic Radiology, the University of Hong Kong, from July 1, 1997. His areas of specialty are musculoskeletal radiology with special interest in magnetic resonance imaging, clinical applications of spiral computerized tomography in the abdomen and musculoskeletal system, and diagnosis and non-operative management of intussusception in children. He has published 165 papers and book chapters and wrote a book on the history, development and current status of radiology, entitled "101 Years of a New Kind of Rays". 

Dr P.W. Yuen



Dr Yuen Po-wing, (MBBS HK; DLO; FRCS (Edin and Glas); FHKAM (ORL)), has recently been promoted to Associate Professor at the Department of Surgery from October 1, 1997. Dr Yuen's specialty is in otorhinolaryngology. His current research interests are in head and neck cancer and rhinology. He has published papers mainly on laryngeal cancer and tongue cancer with findings of new management protocol to improve the treatment results. He is also the first surgeon to introduce endoscopic assisted skull base surgery technique in the world. 


Academic Collaboration...

Faculty of Medicine, HKU and Faculty of Medicine, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan


Academic collaboration and exchange between physiologists from the two Universities have been in place for the last three years. The areas of research which have been embarked on are neurophysiology and neuroendocrinology. Participation of teachers and students from NCKU in the Annual Physiology Symposium organized by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong University provides an opportunity for further interactions between teachers and students. 



Faculty of Medicine, HKU and Sun Yat-sen University of Medical Sciences

Collaborative research is currently under way on the seroepidemiology of Hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection in Guangzhou and Hong Kong. Major findings include an increase in prevalence of anti-HAV with every 10-year increase in age up to age 40 for the Hong Kong population. Also, the prevalence of anti-HAV is much lower in Hong Kong than Guangzhou especially for those below age 30. Implication of the study is twofold. First, the younger Hong Kong population lack protection against HAV infection. Second, with increase travelling to area like Guangzhou, a high proportion of the Hong Kong population is at risk of getting HAV infection at an older age when clinical symptom of HAV infection is more severe. It is advisable to pay attention to hygiene and, if possible, vaccination for hepatitis A before travelling to areas like Guangzhou. 

Neuroscience Research Centre, HKU and Institute of Neurosciences for the Chinese PLA, The Fourth Military Medical University


The Institute of Neurosciences for the Chinese PLA has 45 research staff working on 5 major areas of neuroscience research. One area of collaboration between the two Universities will be the regeneration of the central nervous system. Details of other areas of collaboration can be obtained from Professor K.F. So, Director, Neuroscience Research Centre, HKU. 



Department of Paediatrics



Professor Zhu Qi-rong, Professor Chen Shu-bao, Professor Yang Xi-qiang and Professor Chen Shu-mei represented their respective children's hospitals in Shanghai, Chong-qing and Guang-


zhou to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with Professor Yeung Chap-yung of the Department to further enhance academic and professional collaborations. 

Recent Events...

Medical Research Conference' 98




Gold Coast Hotel Tuen Mun was once again the venue for the annual research meeting of the Department of Medicine on January 10-11, 1998. This year's opening remarks were delivered by Professor Y.C. Cheng, Vice-Chancellor and Professor S.K.

Lam, Head of the Department. There were a number of invited talks given by Professor Paul Tam, Department of Surgery, Professor Peter Fung, Department of Physics and Dr Stephen Chung, Institute of Molecular Biology. The standard of the free paper presentations were very high with six Young Investigators' Awards for Best Oral and Poster Presentations awarded this year. We aim to continue this conference on a yearly basis so as to sharpen our research output, promote interdisciplinary collaborations and encourage our trainees to develop a long-lasting appreciation of good research through personal involvement and application. 

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology



The Obstetrics & Gynaecology Department and the Centre of Human Reproduction jointly organized a Workshop on Assisted Reproduction in Queen

Mary Hospital from October 27 - November 1, 1997. The Workshop included a series of lectures and practical / tutorial sessions, and is the first of its kind in Hong Kong and China. Eminent speakers, including Professor Robert Edwards and Professor Martin Johnson, were invited to deliver lectures on the latest development in assisted reproduction technology. Twenty eight participants took up the full course of the Workshop. Half of them were from Mainland China. The lecture sessions were opened to public and had attracted over 50 participants. 

Forthcoming Events...

Hong Kong Medical Forum '98

Date: 4-5 July, 1998

Venue: Theatre I, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Topics: Endocrine - Diabetes Mellitus & Thyroid Diseases, Haematology & Immunology

Information:

Forum Co-ordinator, HKMF
University Department of Medicine
Queen Mary Hospital
Tel : (852)2855-4607
Fax : (852)2855-1143
Email: denise@hku.hk
Web : <http://www.hku.hk/medicine/>

Hong Kong Surgical Forum

Date: 4-5 July, 1998

Venue: Theatre II, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Topics: Aesthetic Surgery, Endocrine Surgery, Gastrointestinal Surgery, Head and Neck Surgery, Vascular Surgery & Helicobacter Pylori and the Surgeon

Information:

Forum Secretary
Department of Surgery
University of Hong Kong Medical Centre
Queen Mary Hospital
Tel : (852) 2855-4993
Fax : (852) 2818-1186
Email: mededcon@hku.hk

Advanced Course in Surgery for FRCS candidates

Date: 29 June - 3 July, 1998

Venue:

Skills Development Centre
C3, Main Block C Wing
Queen Mary Hospital

Information:

Course Secretary
Advanced Course in Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Hong Kong
Medical Centre
Queen Mary Hospital
Tel : (852) 2855-4993
Fax : (852) 2818-1186


Guest Lectures of SPMET in 1998

Venue: SPMET Lecture Room (G05)

Time: 5:30 p.m. (preceded by refreshments and small eats at 4:30 p.m.)

Date	Lecture	Speaker
Mar 20 (Fri)	Pandemic influenza - a zoonosis?	Professor KF Shortridge, Department of Microbiology, HKU
Apr 8 (Wed)	Female hormones and vascular function	Professor RYK Man, Department of Pharmacology, HKU
May 13 (Wed)	Exploring the sexual-marital satisfaction love map	Professor ML Ng, Department of Psychiatry, HKU
Jun 10 (Wed)	Coronary artery bypass grafting using autologous arteries: the role of the radial artery	Professor GW He, Department of Surgery, HKU
Jul 8 (Wed)	Rape and Hong Kong doctors	Dr SL Beh, Division of Forensic Medicine, Department of Pathology, HKU
Sep 11 (Fri)	Hyperlipidaemia in Hong Kong: causes and consequences	Professor Brian Tomlinson, Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, CUHK
Oct 13 (Tue)	Functional rehabilitation of the jaws after resection	Professor H Tideman, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, HKU
Nov 6 (Fri)	Outcome of schizophrenia: a 15-year follow-up study	Professor Felice Lieh Mak, Department of Psychiatry, HKU
Nov 24 (Tue)	Chemotherapy in non-small cell lung cancer: the platinum and post-platinum era	Professor WK Lam, Department of Medicine, HKU
Dec 9 (Wed)	Smoking and health: epidemiology and control	Professor TH Lam, Department of Community Medicine, HKU

Our Views...

The aim goal of this newsletter is to footer and enhance the awareness of the activities among the Faculty members, alumni, relevant external institutions and individuals in the Faculty of Medicine. This newsletter is published three times a year and sent free to all registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong. It is also sent to overseas Medical Schools and all graduates of the Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong. Please forward all correspondence to The Editor, Medical Faculty New, Faculty of Medicine, 1/F, Patrick Manson Building (North Wing), 7 Sassoon Road, Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong. Fax enquires to the Faculty of Medicine (852)2974-0678, E-mail: dmwliu@hkucc.hku.hk 

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Mr Albert Au

Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

July 1998

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch, and up to date.



Visions of the New Dean

By Diana Liu

Moving ahead with full confidence into the next millenium, Professor Grace Tang, our new Dean, is geared to face new challenges.

Her prime objective for the coming years is to lead the Faculty to pursue excellence in education, research and clinical service. Other major work targets include construction of the New Medical Complex and enhancement of alumni relations.

Professor Tang believes that objective evidence is needed to demonstrate the greater effectiveness of the new curriculum in producing doctors with the desired qualities as enunciated in our Faculty's mission statement. Towards this end, she is developing a monitoring and assessment system which measures not only improvements in the learning process with the new pedagogy, but more importantly the qualities of the graduates, vis-à-vis the goals of the curriculum. The new curriculum will promote a change in attitudes of the graduates who would be equipped with the skills of critical analysis and problem solving to provide patient-centred care. They would be committed to continuous learning so as to keep knowledge and skills updated throughout their professional life. Continuous objective assessment and external validation will make the results of the assessment more convincing.

Professor Tang will continue to enhance the development of multidisciplinary research through the support of the Associate Deans and other members of the Faculty. Fully acknowledging the importance of developing a good research culture in the Faculty, she will continue to encourage interdepartmental cooperation via supporting the activities of the Centres of Excellence. These Centres of Excellence bring together members from various departments and extend their affiliation with other faculties of our University and other local or overseas institutions. They will foster interaction among basic scientists, clinicians and nursing professionals. Such scientific collaboration will elevate the quality of research to the highest international level.


Professor Tang believes that to nurture the research culture of the Faculty, the medical students should be introduced to basic science research at an early stage. One of the possibilities that Professor Tang will explore is to upgrade the intercalated B.Sc. degree to a Master degree. This can be done by allowing final year students to engage in more research work during the elective period and fulfil the requirement of a Master degree just by spending one extra year in addition to the MBBS degree. She is also looking into the feasibility of encouraging practising clinicians to take up research, by offering them structured programmes which allow them to undertake basic research and professional training at the same time with a comparable

remuneration package. The Dean also hopes to launch a master degree in Nursing within this triennium.

In her capacity as a member of the Hospital Governing Committee of Queen Mary Hospital, she is able to influence the direction and quality of clinical research in our teaching hospital and its cluster institutions. Specific areas in her agenda include transplantation, prenatal and neonatal diagnosis, infectious diseases and nursing care.

Another item high on the list of Professor Tang is the New Medical Complex. In four years' time, the New Medical Complex will provide a state-of-the-art infrastructure to support the forefront medical education and research of our Faculty. In addition to the resources from the University Grants Committee, the Hong Kong Jockey Club, the University and some grateful donors, the Faculty needs approximately HK\$200 million to complete the entire project. Fundraising is no doubt one of the major concerns for Professor Tang in the next couple of years.

Apart from the "New" Medical Complex, the Faculty also needs something "old" to support its development. One of the most important goals of the Dean is to establish formally the Hong Kong University Medical Alumni Association in the summer of 1998. She hopes that the establishment of the Alumni Association will reunite our medical graduates and enhance the spirit of fraternity. She has also pledged that she will do her best for her Alma Mater in the next three very exciting years.

Professor Tang is certainly facing the challenges ahead with determination. She is confident that together with the Associate Deans and the support of all Faculty members, the Faculty will move into the next millenium with flying colours. 

What's Inside...


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Exciting News...

UK-HK Joint Research Scheme


The British Council and Hong Kong Research Grants Council have established the HK-UK Joint Research Scheme for a number of years and accept yearly applications for funding. This year our Faculty was successful in obtaining 7 of the 11 grants in the fields of cancer, medicine, schizophrenia, anaesthetics and developmental biology. The awards went to Dr M Irwin (Anaesthesia), Dr G Tsao (Anatomy), Prof. K Cheah (Biochemistry), Prof. LC Chan (Pathology), Dr S Shiu (Physiology), Dr E Chen (Psychiatry) and Prof. P Tam (Surgery). The total sum is HK\$0.52 million. The reciprocal institutions in UK are the Universities of Glasgow, Stirling and Liverpool as well as the National Institute for Medical Research, The Chester Beatty Laboratories, NERC Institute of Virology and Environmental Microbiology and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry. 

Grants for Interface Programme


University Grants Council has granted HK\$0.46 million to the faculty's interface programme which aimed to promote the new medical curriculum by providing the secondary school teachers opportunities to experience the new teaching methods of the MBBS curriculum. 

Congratulations to...




Dr Heather J Ballard who has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Physiology. Dr Ballard's research interest is in cardiovascular physiology, particularly in the local mechanisms that control blood flow to the heart and skeletal muscles, with focus on the control of adenosine formation and release in skeletal muscle. She is a council member of the Institute of Cardiovascular Science and Medicine, and the coordinator of the cardiovascular module in the new MBBS curriculum. 




Dr Tak-mao Chan who has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine. His current research interests include viral hepatitis in patients with renal failure, immunopathogenesis and treatment of lupus nephritis, and nutrition in peritoneal dialysis. Dr Chan is the honorary secretary of the Hong Kong Society of Transplantation and director of training in the nephrology subspecialty for the Hong Kong region in the Hong College of Physicians. 




Dr Annie Nga-yin Cheung who has recently been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology. Dr Cheung's specialty is in obstetrical and gynaecological pathology. Her major research interests include the study of gestational trophoblastic diseases (GTD), placental pathology and gynaecological malignancies. Dr Cheung is also coordinator of the Genitourinary Module of the new MBBS curriculum. 




Dr David Sai-wah Ho who has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine. Dr Ho's areas of specialty are coronary and peripheral angioplasty and stenting. He is one of the first cardiologists to perform carotid angioplasty and stenting outside USA, and regularly conducts live angioplasty demonstration courses locally and abroad. He has also started an exchange programme in 1995 to provide training for interventional cardiologists throughout South East Asia. 




Dr Chak-sing Lau who has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine. Dr Lau's research interests lie in rheumatology, including the genetic basis, immunopathogenesis, and clinical aspects of diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, and systemic lupus erythematosus. Dr Lau is involved in a number of community rehabilitation programmes and patient self-help groups for these chronic diseases. 




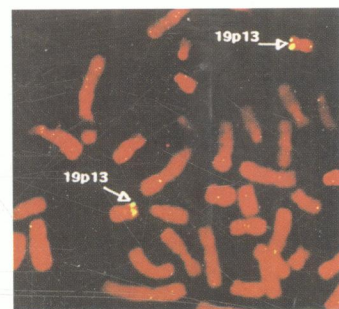
Dr John M Nicholls who has recently been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology. Dr Nicholls has been intimately involved in the launching of the new undergraduate medical curriculum for which he has the responsibility of looking after the human and physical resources needed for its smooth running. He has also been involved in research into nasopharyngeal carcinoma and during the occasional free evening manages time to play viola in a number of amateur orchestras. 



Mr Bing-shu Cheng, Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing Studies, who has just won a seat in the election of the "Health Service Subsector" of the Election Committee (EC) which was organized by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Mr Cheng represented the Health Service Subsector in the work of electing 10 members of the Legislative Council in May 1998. 



Professor Tai-hing Lam, Department of Community Medicine, who has been awarded a Commemorative Certificate and Medal by the World Health Organization in a ceremony held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on World No-Tobacco Day in May 1998. This award is presented annually to six persons who have made outstanding contribution to slowing the progress of the tobacco epidemic in their region. Professor Lam has been conscientiously working on the fight against tobacco for over 15 years and has co-organized every national yearly conference on tobacco or health in China since 1990. 



Expression of rat protein in the normal gut

Messages from Associate Deans...

Associate Dean (Research)

By Professor YS Chan

As Associate Dean in Research, my major objectives are to strengthen and expand the research base in the Faculty; to provide improved research opportunities and environment; and to foster research collaboration that taps multidisciplinary expertise in the solution of intricate biomedical issues.

Research-related activities in our Faculty are poised to make substantial progress in various dimensions. Research postgraduate (RPG) education is promoted through rigorous selection of students, structured monitoring of progress and organization of open-days, training courses and the Faculty-wide Research Symposium. The second frontier is through the operation of Centres of Excellence in Research. The plan has led to the emergence of one institute and six centres which focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, particularly between basic and clinical researchers with common research interests. Since external research grants are vital, we aim to enhance the competitiveness in the Research Grants Council bid and an internal panel of experienced investigators is coordinated to provide constructive feedback to the grant applicants. In the current bid for "Area of Excellence" in the University Grants Council exercise, a strategic role is taken to bring together interested parties to prepare cohesive proposals. It is envisaged that the Faculty's concerted efforts will take our research achievements to new heights. ☺

Associate Dean (Clinical Services)

By Professor RHS Liang

My main role as Associate Dean of Clinical Services is to facilitate and enhance interaction between the Faculty and its teaching hospitals, including Queen Mary Hospital and others, with the objectives of facilitating clinical research and clinical teaching in the hospitals and ensuring high

quality of clinical service to the public. Last year, the Faculty has also arranged for students to undertake training in private hospitals and clinics.

A proposal for funding the additional costs incurred in clinical research and development in the two major University teaching hospitals has been prepared and submitted to the government. Work is also underway to improve coordination of clinical research at Queen Mary Hospital. Meanwhile, the planning of the third to fifth years of the new medical curriculum has begun. The implementation of this part of the curriculum, traditionally called the "clinical years", will essentially be based on various clinical services, and its success obviously requires the close interaction and support of both academic and other professional medical personnel. Hence it is vital to ensure effective communication and common understanding. ☺



Dean, Associate Deans and Faculty Administrators

Associate Dean (Education)

By Professor YL Lau

My key responsibility now is to design, implement and monitor the New Medical Undergraduate Curriculum which was started in September 1997. Our objective is to train a new generation of doctors who are sensitive to the needs of patients and society as well as

life-long learners who can respond positively to the ever-changing challenges of new medical advances. The first batch of MBBS students will be graduating from the New Curriculum in July 2002. The first year students just finished their end of year summative assessment and are now doing their special study modules. So far both the teachers and students have enjoyed the New Curriculum which emphasizes on self-learning and team-work. There will be fine adjustments of our curriculum in response to comments. In order to ensure our curriculum is responsive and can evolve with changing environment, we have implemented regular consultation opportunities with students, teachers and community partners at all levels. We shall also implement a new infrastructure to train future physician-educators as well as to enhance quality research in medical education. ☺

Fellows of Centre of Endocrinology and Diabetes

The Centre of Endocrinology and Diabetes is one of the newly established centres of excellence under the Faculty of Medicine with Professor KSL Lam and Professor YC Wong as Director and Deputy Director. The centre is now inviting application for fellowship. Fellowship will be divided into three categories:

- i) *Full Fellows* should be full-time academic staff or honorary staff at the level of Assistant Professor or above of The University of Hong Kong with research interest in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism.
- ii) *Associate Fellows* should be academic staff from other institutions and hospitals who actively participate in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolic research as well as research fellows or post-graduate students who are interested in the related fields and who cannot qualify as Full Fellows or Honorary Fellows.
- iii) *Honorary Fellows* should be patrons, donors, sponsors and distinguished fellows.

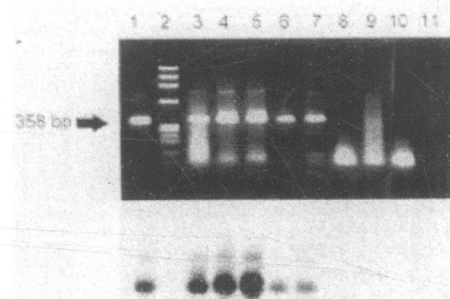
For those who are interested, please contact Miss Vanessa Sit, Executive Officer of Faculty of Medicine at tel: 2819 2851, fax: 2974 0678 or e-mail: vansit@hkucc.hku.hk for further details. ☺

Exciting News...

Bug Hunting and the Control of the Bird Flu

By Professor KY Yuen

The emergence of the bird flu (H5N1) in Hong Kong last year shocked the world - for a new pandemic of influenza may start right here, with unpredictable social, economic, and political consequences. Within seven months, eighteen cases of H5N1 infection occurred in Hong Kong with six deaths. The medical profession in Hong Kong bore the brunt of this disease, as no one in the world had any experience in managing this new infection. During the first two weeks in November, two rapid diagnostic tests, including a gene amplification test called reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction and an antigen detection test using immunofluorescent monoclonal antibody, were developed for detecting the virus directly from the respiratory secretions of patients. This allowed rapid and specific diagnosis as well as early initiation of specific therapy. Patients with influenza not due to H5N1 were reassured and discharged to decrease the hospital's workload. In cooperation with other clinical departments in Queen Mary Hospital and other hospitals, Hospital Authority, Department of Health, and overseas experts, the epidemiology of this disease, source of the virus, and clinical indicators for severe disease were finally unfolded. Although no new cases have occurred since December 1997, continued surveillance is still essential as Southern China has historically been implicated as the origin of several influenza pandemics. Unprecedented overcrowding and international travel make this region a potential source of other emerging infections. The effort of our Faculty in hunting these new bugs has been organized under the flag of the Institute of Infection. More inputs from other interested faculty members would add strength to our combat against these ever-changing microbes.



Gene amplification by RT-PCR to detect bird flu

RGC Grant

A total grant of HK\$28.8 million has been awarded to the Medical Faculty by the Research Grants Council. The sum accounts for 32% of all RGC allocation in The University of Hong Kong. Grant holders and titles of projects are as follows:

Name	Project
Dr. Ballard, HJ	The responses of the skeletal muscle vasculature to local hypoxia or blood-borne agents during systemic hypoxia
Dr. Chan, DTM	The effects of glucose, TGF-Beta, and heparin on the expression of proteoglycans and extracellular matrix molecules by human peritoneal mesothelial cells
Dr. Chan, KFI	Molecular basis of ganglioside-protein interactions in signal transduction and diseases
Dr. Chan, KW	Growth and functions of human kidney tubular cells and transgenic mouse kidneys affected by mutated adult polycystic kidney disease gene, PKDI
Prof. Chan, YS	Postnatal development of the rat otolith system
Prof. Cheah, KSE	Molecular and transgenic approaches for the identification of genes regulated by Sox9 during mouse development
Dr. Chen, EYH	Longitudinal course of neurocognitive impairments in schizophrenia: a 3 year prospective study of first episode patients
Dr. Cheung, ANY	In situ analysis of tissue dynamics in gestational trophoblastic disease
Dr. Cheung, PT	A transgenic mouse model for a human hereditary neurodegenerative disorder of motor neuron, spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy, caused by trinucleotide CAG repeat expansion in the androgen receptor gene
Prof. Cho, CH	A study on the development of heparin and other similar polysaccharides from Angelica Sinensis Diels as new antiulcer agents for gastric ulcer
Dr. Chung, SK	Generation of ligand-inducible knockout mouse model of endothelin-1 to study neural injury and protection and blood brain barrier maintenance
Dr. Chung, SSM	Osmoregulation in lens
Dr. Higgins, DA	Molecular and phenotypic analysis of duck T and B lymphoblastoid cell lines
Dr. Koo, MWL	Effects of centella asiatica (herbal medicine) on adhesion molecule expression in gastric ulcer healing
Prof. Kung, AWC	The production of a transgenic mouse model of autoimmune thyroiditis and the study of induction of tolerance to an organ specific autoantigen in transgenic mice expressing thyroid peroxidase in the thymus
Prof. Lam, KSL	Interaction between the polyol pathway and non-enzymatic glycation in the pathogenesis of diabetic nephropathy
Dr. Lam, VMS	High resolution 3D X-ray structural analysis and functional study of human glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD): normal and mutant enzymes
Dr. Lam, YH	Comparison of first trimester ultrasound screening and second trimester biochemical screening for fetal Down's syndrome
Prof. Lau, YL	Regulation of telomerase activity in human cord blood T cells by insulin-like growth factor-I
Prof. Loh, TT	Molecular mechanisms of erythroid transferrin receptor expression
Dr. Luk, JMC	Molecular analysis of integrin-mediated leukocyte cell adhesion
Prof. Luk, KDK	A minimal invasive approach to anterior release in scoliosis by chemonucleolysis: experimental study with the rabbit scoliosis model
Dr. Opstelten, D	Relationship between the formation of bone and blood cells: in vivo and in situ studies in mouse models of altered osteoblast activity
Dr. Sham, MH	Analyses of gain-of-function mutants to study the network of Hox gene interaction in the mouse embryo
Dr. Siow, YL	Role of Chinese medicinal compounds in the regulation of stress-activated protein kinase in ischaemia/reperfusion
Dr. Srivastava, G	Mechanisms of immune evasion by the tumor cells of nasal T/NK-cell lymphoma
Prof. Tam, PKH	Immune mechanisms and new immunosuppressive approaches in small bowel transplantation
Dr. Tom, WM	Pharmacological intervention of oxidant-induced cytotoxicity
Dr. Tsang, KWT	A systematic clinico-ultrastructural correlation of the ciliary structure and function in Chinese patients who suffer from bronchiectasis
Dr. Wong, MP	A study on the pathogenetic role of tumour suppressor genes in non-small cell lung cancer in Hong Kong and Shanghai Chinese female
Dr. Wong, NS	The regulation of expression of mammalian thioredoxin reductase
Dr. Yao, KM	Investigating the functional role of a novel winged helix transcription factor, WIN, during development and cell cycle progression
Dr. Yip, HKF	Study of cell adhesion molecules in mediating regeneration of retinal ganglion cell axons severed in the optic nerve of the adult mouse with an intravitreal peripheral nerve graft

Alumni Progress...

The Faculty is in the progress of drafting a constitution for the Hong Kong University Medical Alumni Association. Lists of subscribers and executive committee have been identified. On behalf of the Faculty, the Dean will make formal invitations to this core group. An announcement will be made as soon as the details are finalized.

In order to initiate more contacts with the alumni, the Dean invited 11 medical graduates from class '47 to '61 to an informal dinner gathering on May 22, 1998. This group of energetic doctors certainly had an enjoyable evening. They shared amusing memories, updated



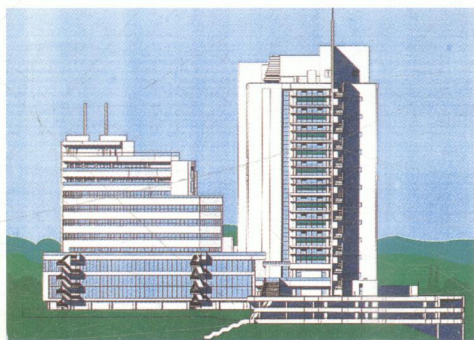
First row from left : Dr. Cheung Pak Chue, Dr. Chow Ki Kit, Dr. Mok Hing Yiu, Dr. Lee Chung Yin, Dr. Chang Lok Pan

Second row from left : Dr. Shiu Man Hei, Dr. Yu Yu Chiu, Dr. Chiu Shin Chak, Professor Grace Tang, Miss Diana Liu, Dr. Lee Kin Hung, Dr. Mok Lai Foo, Dr. Mak Shiu Kin

classmates' recent news, commented on the Faculty's progress and gave suggestions on alumni activities. We are glad to know that they have many constructive ideas and are willing to offer assistance if the Faculty needs. More informal gatherings will be arranged for class '62 onwards. If you are interested in joining these gatherings, please contact Miss Diana Liu by fax at 2974 0678 or email at dmwliu@hkucc.hku.hk.

The production of the alumni directory is in process. May we extend our gratitude to those of you who helped us in updating your contact details.

New Medical Complex Update...



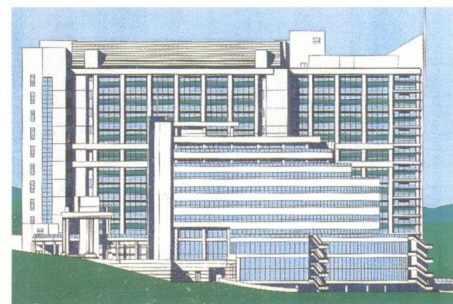
West elevation of non-laboratory building

Construction Engineering Corporation. The contractor has taken possession of the site in June, 1998. Pending on the settlement of land lease matters and the issuance of 'tree felling permit', the contractor will shortly commence this one year long contract on site. The site formation comprises construction of various platforms, slope stabilisation, piling, site drainage works etc. The project group is investigating the possibility of

Demolition of the buildings at the Northcote site was completed in mid June 1998, two weeks ahead of the schedule. The site formation and foundation contract has been awarded to the China State

keeping/transplanting some of the Banyan trees in the area with the kind assistance of Professor CY Jim of the Department of Geography and Geology.

The project group has gone through detailed planning with each department in the Faculty. Tendering document for the main building construction is under preparation for submission to the UGC for approval. A number of major construction firms will be invited for tendering. The Dean, project group, heads of departments, and the University Estates Committee have approved the elevation of both buildings.



South elevation of laboratory building & non-laboratory building

Donations...

1. The Faculty of Medicine has received a donation of HK\$15 million from the Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation to support the development of the New Medical Complex in May, 1998.
2. The trustees of the Kadoorie Charitable Foundations donated HK\$11.6 million to support three research programmes for three years on blood cancers and bone marrow transplantation.
3. A donation of HK\$3 million and 300,000 Liu Chong Hing Bank shares from Dr Vincent LC Liu and his family has been made to the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong to establish the "Liu Po Shan/Dr Vincent Liu Endowment Fund for Motor Neuron Disease" in June 1998.
4. Mr and Mrs Henry Leung have donated a sum of HK\$500,000 to establish "Mr Henry and Mrs Sally Leung Orthopaedic Research and Development Fund" to support research, development and education in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1998.
5. Morgan Stanley Asia Limited has donated HK\$150,000 to support the Faculty's community relations projects in June, 1998.


Forthcoming Events...

Inaugural Conference of Centre of Endocrinology and Diabetes	Institute of Cardiovascular Science and Medicine Second Annual Scientific Meeting	Asian Clinical Trials Conference 1998
Date: September 27, 1998 (Sunday) Venue: Conrad International Hong Kong Information: Conference Secretariat Faculty of Medicine The University of Hong Kong 7 Sassoon Road Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2819 2851 Fax: (852) 2974 0678/2855 9742 E-mail: vansit@hkucc.hku.hk	Date: October 24, 1998 (Saturday) Venue: Sports House 1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po Causeway Bay, Hong Kong Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on heart failure • Anti-platelet drugs • Thrombolytic therapy in stroke • Dyslipidemias and atherosclerosis: can understanding molecular genetics lead to therapy • A debate on "Defining the role of calcium channel blockers in clinical practice" Information: Meeting Secretariat Faculty of Medicine The University of Hong Kong 7 Sassoon Road, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2819 2851 Fax: (852) 2974 0678/ 2855 9742 E-mail: vansit@hkucc.hku.hk	Date: October 25 – 27, 1998 (Sunday - Tuesday) Venue: Level 3 Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai Hong Kong Information: Conference Secretariat Asian Clinical Trials Conference 1998 The Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong 4/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2527 8898 Fax: (852) 2866 7530 E-mail: sigfmashk@netvigator.com


Summer Attachment Scheme for Form 6 Students August 3 - 7 & August 10 - 14, 1998

The Faculty of Medicine has been organizing annual attachment exercises for secondary school students since 1993. The Summer Attachment Scheme for Form 6 students will be held in August giving students to have a better understanding about the new medical curriculum, and in particular, to let them experience the new teaching and learning methodology.

The attachment scheme will be divided into 2 duplicate sessions. Each session will last for 5 days, from August 3 to 7 and from August 10 to 14 respectively. On Day 1, about 30 to 40 Form 6 students, who are nominated by their school principals, will visit the medical library and the pre-clinical departments in the Sassoon Road campus. They will also tour the Queen Mary Hospital to have a general impression of the hospital before their actual attachment scheme starts. From Day 2 to 4, the students will then be attached to the clinical departments where they will participate in duties similar to those of ward attendants and/or as observers in wards/laboratories at the Queen Mary Hospital. On the last day (i.e. Day 5), the students will be given a chance to experience Problem-based Learning tutorials, the clinical skills workshop and CAL practice.

In summary, the attachment scheme is aimed at providing Form 6 students with a chance to gain a deeper insight and understanding of the medical profession as well as to promote the new learning pedagogy among secondary school students. 

Our Views...

The goal of this newsletter is to foster and enhance the awareness of the activities in the Faculty of Medicine among Faculty members, alumni, relevant external institutions and individuals. This newsletter is published three times a year and sent free to all registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong. It is also sent to overseas Medical Schools and all graduates of the Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong. Please forward all correspondence to The Editor, Medical Faculty News, Faculty of Medicine, 1/F, Patrick Manson Building (North Wing), 7 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong. Fax: (852) 2974-0678, E-mail: dmwliu@hkucc.hku.hk 

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Interview with Ex-Dean, Professor SP Chow

Q: What were your major achievements during your deanship?

A: I would not say that they were achievements. They were our major contributions for the past three years. To name a few: I would say the new medical complex, curriculum reform, collaboration with private hospitals, and claw-back of resources for the Faculty.

Q: What do you think about the new medical complex? What did you do to make it happen?

A: The planning of the new medical complex was fun although it was time-consuming. At the beginning of my deanship, the University did not pay much attention to this project and it was almost aborted. With great help from a few professors and a bit of luck, we gained support from both the University and the Government in allocation of land and resources. Sincerity, determination and good presentation helped to make this happen.



Ex-Dean : Professor SP Chow, Associate Deans : Professor YS Chan, Professor YL Lau, Professor RHS Liang, Professor Grace Tang and Faculty office staff.

Q: What sort of difficulties were encountered during launching of the new MBBS curriculum?

A: A lot of staff were mentally not prepared for the reform. Some still have hesitation. Personally, I did have times of frustration. It had been very difficult to gather enough enthusiastic people to start this reform. With a lot of effort being put in, majority of the colleagues are beginning to work along the basic principles. I believe that we are in a leading position in Hong Kong and this region in reforming the curriculum.

Q: Besides these two projects, what else has been done, for example, in the field of research and development?

A: For the further development of the Faculty of Medicine, I have successfully bid for an additional allocation from the University with the support from our Vice Chancellor. I also helped to establish a Degree course in Nursing. A new section in the clinical years was added for students to be exposed to the clinical practice in local private hospitals through attachment to our honorary staff in the private sector. I think this is a breakthrough in the history of medical education in Hong Kong.

Q: Why was the mission statement of the Faculty changed?

A: I believe that health care should be holistic. Medicine is also a combination of "art" and "science". Caring and empathy should be added on top of science. The traditional education emphasizes on treatment of diseases but is weak in nutritional therapy, alternative and complementary medicine, rehabilitation and modern urban ailments. Therefore the Faculty should take the leading role to reform and educate the future doctors with this philosophy. I believe that this trend will affect the global medical training in the long run.

Q: What is your view towards future development of our Faculty?

A: Locally, we are facing a possible reduction in the intake of medical students. The government has to carefully review the needs of society and we believe that the government and the

two medical schools should work together in future planning. Our Faculty should strengthen developments in postgraduate studies and explore new developments like Traditional Chinese Medicine. Meanwhile, the Faculty should support the new one-more-year curriculum proposed by the University which I think has a good general education principle.

Q: Is there any regret on what you have or have not done? What do you want our Faculty to accomplish in the future?

A: I tried to stimulate more research activities by increasing the awareness of Faculty members and facilitating collaboration both within and outside the Faculty. The effect would be stronger if I was more dictatorial. What I feel most regretful indeed is over the pre-clinical departmental review. Merging should only be one of the options in reorganization. We should have offered more flexibility and choices for

the staff. I feel extremely uneasy about the detrimental effect brought onto the morale of our staff. In the future, I also hope our Faculty can establish a good partnership with Queen Mary Hospital, create a sense of belonging with our medical graduates and stimulate a better research environment.

Q: How do you feel about the changes of the University in the recent few years?

A: A lot of such changes are responses to requirements from the University Grant Council, or to comments from the Legislative Council and the public, such as the research assessment exercise, teaching and learning quality assurance, curriculum reform, budgetary cut, and administrative review. With very keen competition from other institutes in Hong Kong, our new Vice-chancellor has rightly decided to take a more proactive role and introduced many new initiatives. Our University staff, obviously, will be feeling the pressure from all fronts. The speed of change perhaps can be varied according to circumstances. The direction of change, I believe, is inevitable.

Q: What are your personal feelings during your deanship? What about now?

A: I was happy most of the time when I focussed my energy for the benefit of the Faculty. I gained trust and friendship from members but was disappointed with very few. I should take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to those who have supported me throughout the deanship: the Vice-chancellor for his support in our changes and allocation of resources in meaningful academic pursuits; senior professors like Professor David Todd and Professor HK Ma who did a lot of behind the scene lobbying, generous donors like the Hong Kong Jockey Club, most department heads, Faculty members, the Faculty office and friends of the University. I wish I could name all of them here. Now, I am able to spend more time with my daughters and at the same time consolidate my professional career and the hand team in my department. I can also pick up the personal interests that I gave up during my deanship. Even more important, I can spend more time with my other voluntary community services. ☺

Recent Events...

Visits to the Faculty of Medicine and the Interface Programme

In order for secondary school teachers and students to experience our new medical curriculum, and at the same time, to promote the new curriculum itself, the Faculty of Medicine has organized a visit for secondary school teachers in March, 1998



Year one medical students demonstrating clinical skills to the secondary school students.

and a visit for secondary school students in May, 1998. Activities of the visit included a presentation on the new curriculum, a computer aided learning (CAL) demonstration, touring of Dissecting Laboratory of Department of Anatomy, an introduction to Problem-based Learning (PBL) tutorial, clinical skills demonstration and ended with a meal.

Both visits were well received by the participants with 73 secondary school teachers and 285 students attending the visits. Over 90% of teachers gave positive feedback to the visit while over 97% of students got to know more about our new curriculum after the visit.

Besides faculty visits, we have also organized an interface programme, entitled "Introduction to Small-Group, Problem-based Learning", for secondary school teachers in July, 1998. This was a one-and-a-half day programme designed to allow the teachers to gain hands-on experience in the learning pedagogy which is now being used for our new medical curriculum. Altogether 30 teachers from 24 secondary schools participated in this programme. Through this programme, the teachers played the role of medical students studying a tutorial case under the guidance of our tutors. They also learned how to tackle problems in a self-directed manner with the assistance of a variety of educational resources and to complete assignments that the tutorial required.



Secondary school students at a Problem-based Learning tutorial session.

May we take this opportunity to acknowledge our teachers who have kindly contributed their support in the visits and the interface programme, without which the events definitely would not have come to this success. ☺

Symposium on Advances in Chinese Medicine '98

The Symposium on Advances in Chinese Medicine '98 was held on 5-7th June, 1998 in Shenzhen. The objectives were to promote education and research in Chinese Medicine, encourage interactions among scientists, educators and policy-makers in the field, and enhance collaborations on Chinese Medicine among Hong Kong, Mainland China and the rest of the world.

The Opening Ceremony was officiated by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor SL Wong, and followed by an address by the Chairman of the Symposium Organizing Committee, Professor SF Pang. Highlights of the ceremony were the plenary lectures delivered by Professor Shen Zhi-xiang of State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine on "Traditional Chinese Medicine in China - Present and Future", and Professor Chen Ke-ji of China Academy of



From left : Professors Chen Ke-ji, SL Wong, SF Pang and Shen Zhi-xiang

Traditional Chinese Medicine on "Forty Years of Integrative Medicine in China".

The Symposium was well attended by 90 academics from Hong Kong, the Mainland and Canada with 62 oral and poster presentations on policy, education, acupuncture, herbal medicine and other Chinese Medicine aspects. It allowed interaction between various sectors for better understanding of the trend of Chinese Medicine practice in China in terms of education, research and policy. Joint project possibilities were generated from the discussion among participants of our University and academics of the mainland. ☺

Certificate Course in Oncology Nursing

68 registered nurses graduated from a nine-month part-time Certificate Course in Oncology Nursing, co-organized by the Department of Nursing Studies, and the Faculty Cancer Research Centre in January, 1998. The programme aimed to provide nurses with opportunities to enhance nurses' knowledge and skills in oncology nursing practice and to equip them with advanced professional skills in caring holistically for cancer patients and their families. ☺

Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

December 1998

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch, and up to date.



Volume 3 Issue 3

21 FEB 2000

The New Curriculum - One Year Old

The Faculty has launched an academic reform in the academic year 1997. The implementation of a new MBBS curriculum is a significant milestone for a medical school with a history of 110 years. There has been a big impact upon all staff members and students. During the first year of the new venture, staff and students have encountered uncertainty, frustration, joy and satisfaction. In order to share their experiences, we have interviewed a few teachers and students to explore their feelings.

It is of equal importance that we obtain some feedback from the major employer of the graduates of our new curriculum. We are grateful to Dr EK Yeoh, Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority, for his valuable views.

Interview with 2nd year students

Q. If you were asked to select the most impressive feature in the new curriculum, what would that be?

P. Tutorials. The close interaction among fellow students and Faculty members is a very positive approach. I find this mode of learning to be much more interesting and comprehensive; comprehensive in the sense that I am able to learn and obtain additional information from other group members. We have been given the learning objectives so that I know what I should concentrate on and set a clear learning direction. The learning process is very different from the one I experienced when I was doing my first degree.

(So you are a non-JUPAS student. What is your first degree? I studied organic chemistry at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.)

C. I also choose tutorials to be my favourite part of the curriculum. The cases we study involve integration of various pre-clinical disciplines. Even more gratifying is that we are able to study medical scenarios from different angles; from diagnosis to treatment. I had participated in the summer attachment programme offered by the Faculty before and knew about the curriculum reform. However, I was still surprised at the extent of changes. Even though I was a bit lost during the first two months, I felt very comfortable after the first term. I find the curriculum interesting and practical. Integrating science, art and sociology is great. The multidisciplinary training brings another dimension to medicine, I feel that I am exploring the "secrets of human nature" ("人性之奥秘").

Q. "Secrets of human nature"? What do you mean by that?

C. From different presentations or views expressed by my classmates on a certain scenario or issue, I realise that there are diverse interpretations of a same issue due to different personality and personal experience.

P. I have a very positive feeling about what I am doing. I am glad to learn right from the beginning what the medical profession is about and that it is not restricted to being a doctor. It is particularly important to me, as a mature student, to have the chance to think of my career options at an early stage instead of leaving it after my graduation. I realise that the role of a doctor is more than just dealing with patients, that there are other career opportunities related to health-care provision or I can even choose to be an epidemiologist. I am also interested in ethical issues related to the medical profession.

Q. Any negative views on the curriculum?

C. I hope that more explanation could be given in the lectures during the Foundation course. It would be useful if the objectives of the lectures were specified and more focused on core knowledge.

P. I think that the co-ordination of different pre-clinical disciplines can be improved so that we can learn the relationship and interactions between these disciplines and how to apply the knowledge in studying a system/case.

Q. Have you noticed any difference in having a pre-clinical or clinical teacher as PBL tutor?

P. We consider having a clinical teacher as PBL tutor a bonus.

C. From my own experience, having both pre-clinical and clinical tutors, I find that clinical tutors are able to tackle a case on a broader scope, from basic science to clinical diagnosis and treatment. Amazingly, they are still very familiar with the pre-clinical theories.

Perhaps the Faculty may wish to consider appointing clinical teachers as problem-based learning (PBL) tutors from second year onwards. It does not matter too much during the Foundation Course.

P. I think whether a tutor is good or not also very much depends on his interest and enthusiasm. For example, Professor Man, who was one of my tutors, was very good even though he is not a clinician. He was very stimulating and we were able to learn in a wide context. We were able to express our real feelings

and discuss with the tutors in order to improve the group interactions, the way to run a tutorial and our performance. So far we have been able to identify difficulties and resolve them. After our "heart-to-heart" chat, there was always significant improvement in the way our tutorials and discussions were being conducted. We do appreciate the well-established teacher-student relationship.

Q. Both of you have been very positive about the curriculum, do your classmates share similar views?

C. It depends on the individual.

P. I think the more mature students do share the positive feelings.

Q. Do you have any suggestions for improvement?



Students Clara Poon(P) and Samuel Chan(C)

What's Inside...

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P. The major problem I have encountered is the lack of feedback or advice from teachers. One of the important issues related to self-learning is the availability of resource persons whom we can approach when we have difficulties. My personal experience is that sometimes we get conflicting/controversial information from literature and we need somebody who is able to explain what is correct. I normally use e-mail to seek help from teachers and sometimes there is no answer. When we cannot get help, it will affect our motivation to explore the issue further.

Q. We have put a comment box in the Education Office at the Estates Building and you can put your questions there and the Faculty Office staff will re-direct them to the appropriate person. Any other experience you wish to mention? How about clinical visits?

C. I felt happy and proud during the first clinical visit and saw it as an opportunity to help patients. The early clinical contact will build up our confidence to working in the hospitals when we enter the year 3 curriculum.

P. The experience we obtain now will help us to apply a holistic approach for patient care during the clinical years.

C. My PCP (Patient Care Project) involves an old diabetic gentleman. I shall never forget the first sentence he said during my third visit which was "long time no see" ("好耐唔見"). I was moved that he was glad to see me and that we have established a good relationship. When I try to learn more about the situation or background of the patient, I realise that as a doctor, medical care is not everything, and the psycho-social conditions also have an impact. I have also learned from the project that there are many factors influ-

encing the quality of life.

P. I also had mixed feelings when I first met the patient assigned to me. On one hand I was sympathetic and on the other hand, I understand that as a doctor, I have to confront all kinds of conditions and know how to control my own emotions.

Q. You are now in your second year of MBBS curriculum, have you noticed any difference from your first year?

P. When I started in my first year, there was a culture shock. I was relatively isolated and inactive. Now I am more relaxed and the whole atmosphere becomes friendly and enjoyable. I have now learned that there are various channels to resolve problems and leeways to get things done. The anxiety I encountered during the first year no longer exists and probably it was unnecessary.

C. My critical thinking has improved, especially knowledge-wise. I can now better judge what is true when there is controversy.

P. I want to talk about the SSM (Special Study Module). I really appreciate the efforts of the Faculty in making the SSM arrangements for us.

Q. What did you do?

P. I undertook a self-initiated project on biomedical techniques at Leiden University in Holland. I hope to participate in the MSF (Medecins Sans Frontieres) modules this year. I am interested in different health care systems. Exposure to other countries will enable me to fill in some of the missing gaps in the global scene.

C. My SSM was on psycho-social care and introduction to forensic pathology. As I am a Catholic, the study has given me a complete picture of life: "from birth to after death", ("生命的真諦").

Interview with Dr. Henry Ip, Department of Anatomy

Q. We noticed from the students' evaluations that you were rated as a good teacher. How did you achieve that?

A. The new small group teaching approach appeals to me personally. The new curriculum provides more opportunities for me to interact with the students and for the students to interact with each other to promote and broaden learning. Interaction is something I enjoy and it is crucial for both good learning and teaching. During tutorials, I study how students learn and try to appreciate their ways of thinking. Realizing how they learn, I adjust the way I teach and it also helps me in monitoring their progress. Despite the individual differences in learning and scholarship, I try to help all the students to develop the competency to be a self-directed learner and to share my enthusiasm.

Q. You seem to be very excited about the new curriculum, why?

A. Students are learning how to deal with patients right from the beginning of their professional training. I think this is the most important strategy of the new medical curriculum in achieving the outcome of producing caring and competent doctors. The new curriculum also enhances the integration and interaction between pre-clinical and clinical teachers in the Faculty. One prevalent concern of the students about the new curriculum is how much they should know. I always ask them to review the learning objectives, because they usually delineate the scope of knowledge the students are expected to learn from that particular case. For example, I have been the tutor for the CVS system and the students were exposed to ECG and echocardiogram. I always advise the students to focus on the general principles of the two techniques and the interpretation based on the information provided, which are relevant to the case. The students should not go into a lot of details about imaging. After all, it is only their first year in medical school and they will revisit cardiology in their clinical years or when they would pick up more details.

Q. What do you do if the students ask you questions on clinical issues related to the case in your problem-base learning (PBL) tutorial,

to which you may not know the answer?

A. I refer them to the resource person or the case writer, who is often a clinical colleague.

Q. Do you feel bad about that?

A. Definitely not. I am not clinically trained and I recognise my limitations. It is unwise trying to be an expert, when you are not, as you may give out wrong information and the students will find out. An honest relationship with the students is very important, their confidence and trust in the teachers cannot be jeopardised.

Q. Other than the effect on teachers, how about the students? Did you see any difference between the students of the old and new curriculum?

A. Obviously the students in the new curriculum have more self-confidence and motivation as they play a more active role in their own learning process. They develop team-concepts and establish closer relationship with each other. I have been in constant contact with the senior students. After knowing what the students are learning in the new curriculum, they become envious of their wide exposure, in particular that related to clinical skills.

Q. Has your teaching load increased after the implementation of the new curriculum?

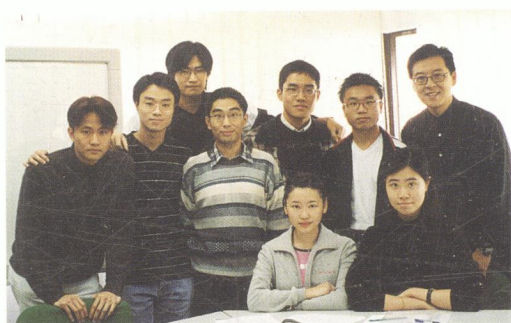
A. Not in terms of number of actual contact hours. The preparation work has become more time consuming. Before tutorials, I have to go through the tutor guides and I also spend time on reading through the references.

Q. How about your research work?

A. I just have to work longer hours and also work a lot more at home.

Q. Did you have any worries when the new curriculum was first proposed?

A. We have been using PBL, to some extent, in the old curriculum to teach anatomy, so I welcome the new curriculum. I did worry in the beginning, not because I doubted whether the change was the right thing, but because of the scale and boldness of the change. Of course,



Medics'02 PBL Group 18, CVS module

some colleagues were skeptical about the move and worried whether Hong Kong students could handle self-directed learning. We now see that Hong Kong students are equally adaptive and competent in a new learning process if they are provided with the right niche.

Q. If you have to add one element from the new curriculum, what will it be?

A. More input from clinical colleagues in the basic science teaching materials and vice versa. We want to make sure that the basic science we are teaching fits into the clinical scenario.

Q. How about input from pre-clinical teachers in the clinical curriculum?

Interview with Professor HYS Ngan, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Q. The Faculty has set the objectives for the curriculum reform. What are your own visions?

A. I hope that the new curriculum will provide total patient care training to our students. It is essential for doctors to be aware of social factors which may affect our patients. Communication skills are also important in order to establish effective dialogue and a good doctor/patient relationship. My target is to train doctors who can cope with the ever advancing knowledge and science in medicine. It is impossible to teach everything nowadays. We are trying to be more selective, teaching the core knowledge essential for a general doctor. The spirit of the new curriculum is to encourage self-learning, so future doctors can keep up with advancement in medicine. Furthermore, the integrated curriculum will enable the students to remember their pre-clinical principles when they come to their clinical years.

Q. You are used to teaching more "senior" students who have settled in the University system. Is there any difference in teaching them and the freshmen coming from secondary schools?


A. My general impression is that the first year students are more eager to learn. Some of the more senior students I have taught were relatively inert and passive, lacking enthusiasm as well as energy.

Q. Did you encounter any difficulty in teaching the new curriculum?

A. Oh yes! My first tutorial was a failure as I had forgotten my role as a tutor in a PBL session. Although I was not expected to give factual materials to students, I should have posed directive questions to them at appropriate times in order to stimulate their discussions. Fortunately, I "repented" in time. Nevertheless, I think the students prefer pre-clinical teachers in their early contacts as they are more familiar with the basic sciences involved. Self-assessment of both teachers and students at the end of the PBL teaching is very useful so that improvement can be made constantly.

A. Perhaps pre-clinical teachers can serve as resource persons in the clinical curriculum. Hopefully some of the important pre-clinical principles will be revisited during the clinical years so that the students can truly integrate their knowledge. It will be useful if our clinical colleagues can tell us their expectation of our students' proficiency in basic science.

Q. Finally, is there anything which should be deleted from the new curriculum?

A. I have not thought of deleting anything. I think the current curriculum is quite balanced. Of course it is important that we need constant feedback from students and teachers to make it better. 

Q. You have been involved in the planning of the new curriculum and are aware of the difficulties we faced during the inception stage of the new curriculum. What were those problems?

A. Actually, I was involved at a relatively late stage in planning. Personally, I feel that it is important to convince all the Heads first and get their commitment to solicit the support of their staff. Our colleagues are people with a high IQ. I am sure that once they believe in the reform, they will be able to achieve its goal. Another concern or worry of our pre-clinical colleagues would be the pressure of appearing ignorant in front of the students. It should be emphasized that in the (clinically-based) patient cases taught in PBL sessions, the emphasis is more on pre-clinical theories than on clinical issues. After the first year, we are more confident. When the curriculum becomes more defined, there will be less obstacles. Having said that, we still have to plan better for what we are going to do with the clinical years. It is frustrating that the messages/instructions we have been receiving keep changing. We have to keep on revising the plans. I guess that it is inevitable in the development of any new curriculum.

Q. There is also the worry that the new curriculum will impose extra workload on teachers. What is your personal experience?

A. Currently, I think my workload has doubled as I am involved in teaching the specialty clerks as well as teaching and planning the new curriculum. To a certain extent, it affects my research work. Still, I prefer the new mode of teaching and I believe in the curriculum reform.



Dr E K Yeoh, Chief Executive, Hospital Authority



As the major provider of hospital services in Hong Kong, the Hospital Authority (HA) has been focusing attention on the unique qualities a good doctor should possess. Apart from clinical skills, a good doctor should also acquire some "new skills" in order to integrate the quality improvement movement into health care. First, he/she should have strong learning ability which enables him/her to comprehend and integrate the

vast amount of knowledge (in medical or related fields) acquired through life-long continuous learning. Second, a good doctor should be able to think critically and analytically, to make sense out of complex and conflicting information and analyse problems from different perspectives. Third, he/she should also process the skills in interacting with patients as partners in the health care process, listening to and understanding their needs, working with them to provide appropriate care in a humanistic way, and influencing and empowering them to engage in behaviours which will facilitate healing and health. Fourth,

a good doctor should be able to partner with the community in the delivery of holistic care to our patients.

In recent years, there has been a multiplicity of changes in the organization and provision of health care in public hospitals. New graduates may be overwhelmed by these changes, many times they are perplexed, sometimes frustrated and occasionally lost. One of the most challenging jobs is to deal with the many demands and pressures in the context of increasing public expectation for quality service. We have organized orientation and educational programmes for our new doctors to better prepare them for the challenges of the job. Measures have also been taken to enhance clinical supervision by senior doctors and to strengthen the training on interacting and communicating with patients and their families. The HA has also been reorganizing work processes and developing computer automation in order to reduce workload.

It is anticipated that further changes in the delivery of health care will continue in the next millennium, and our future doctors will be facing even greater challenges. One of the challenges is to strive for good quality care in the environment of rapid medical advancement and limited resources. The future doctors should have a macro view


on the health needs and resource allocation for the population as a whole. The public will also expect greater accountability from the medical profession. This can be done by enhancing the transparency of the professional self-regulation system and by strengthening clinical audit and risk management so that substandard service can be identified and rectified, and proper investigations into clinical incidents can be undertaken. In this new era of information explosion, doctors should be able to capture and analyse the key knowledge and transform it into precise criteria for the effectiveness of health care. This information will also be accessible to patients and should serve as a tool for greater participation of patients in the decision-making of the health care process and serve for greater accountability.

Being a member of the Advisory Board of the new MBBS curriculum, I believe that the reforms will ensure that our graduates possess the necessary qualities of a good doctor and adapt swiftly to the future changes in the health care field. More emphasis has been put on the economic and humanistic aspects of patient care, thus enabling graduates to factor them into medical decision making. The undergraduates will be more aware of the importance of life-long commitment in professional learning; and at the same time, be able to make good use of the ever increasing knowledge base.

Among the many innovative initiatives of the new curriculum, I find the integrated approach, early clinical contact and community-based teaching of particular importance and relevance to modern health care delivery. In the integrated curriculum, lectures and practical ses-

sions are organized to tackle different body system/organs. This approach avoids unnecessary repetition of teaching materials and enables the students to better understand the functions and structures of the systems/organs within a short period of time. Early clinical contact gives more time to the students to get accustomed to the clinical environment, to develop good clinical and communication skills and the ability to work in teams.

Patient care projects in community-based teaching enable students to learn how to establish relationships with patients and their families and to appreciate the intricate interplay between physical illness and psychosocial factors. There will also be a greater awareness of the skills required of a doctor needed to influence patients and their families to engage in behaviours which facilitate healing and health.

Finally, I would like to share with you my views and expectations on the Faculty's role in providing postgraduate education in Hong Kong. The main objective of postgraduate education is to assure that doctors can maintain competence by continuing to acquire contemporary knowledge and learn new skills, thus enabling them to strive for highest possible standard of patient care throughout their professional life. The Faculty can further strengthen her present role in this area by researching and anticipating the new skills required of our doctors and organizing the training programmes required to acquire these skills. Courses on research methodology including new and different approaches particularly in social science methodologies would be beneficial. 

Message from the Dean


The Faculty has gone through a successful revolution in launching the new MBBS curriculum in September 1997. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated Faculty members who have worked exceptionally hard and relentlessly during the historical reform. During the initial stage, there was anxiety, uncertainty, fear and even antagonism from both staff and students. The commitment of over fifty staff in planning and modifying the curriculum, and about one hundred teachers in providing effective interactions with students, have enabled us to grasp and promote the essence of problem-solving teaching and student self-directed learning.

We have adopted a holistic approach to build up an integrated curriculum in combining the bio-psycho-social aspects of medical care and early clinical exposure for our freshmen is possible. Our first year students had attended clinical training sessions at the Hong Kong Sanatorium, Fung Yiu King Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital, Institutes of the Department of Health, as well as visits to patients' homes. Clinical skills and clinical interpersonal skills (communication) have been emphasized in the new curriculum. We hope to train doctors who will treat patients not just with the most advanced knowledge and techniques, but also with the appropriate skills and sensitivity to address the individual needs of patients. The new teaching pedagogy aims to guide our students to be life-long learners with keen, observing and inquisitive minds. Our goal is to produce generic doctors equipped with the skills to enter into higher specialist training.

In September, experts from the Harvard Medical School and the Liverpool University validated our curriculum and they were impressed that the Faculty has been able to, in a short time, accomplish what it has often taken other medical schools years to develop. In undertaking this curriculum reform, the Faculty is seen to have positioned itself to be among world leaders in medical education.

To put it in very simple terms, our Faculty has done a world-class job in designing the new curriculum. The Faculty is indeed very encouraged and reassured by the external assessments. Professor Charles George, Chairman of the General Medical Council, has also accepted our invitation to be external examiner for the new curriculum and his input will further enhance our curriculum development. We have also made special efforts to introduce and promote our new curriculum to secondary school teachers and potential medical students, as well as to our alumni and the healthcare professionals. It is important to assure the community that the new curriculum will produce doctors who are capable of facing challenges in the next millennium.


Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the new curriculum is an area I personally feel to be extremely crucial. In addition to the current internal evaluation of the curriculum from feedback from teachers and students, we have signed a collaborative agreement with the Harvard Medical School. Our Faculty members will work with Harvard curriculum specialists to plan and design the clinical curriculum. More importantly, we shall develop and implement an objective and methodical scheme for long-term evaluation of our new curriculum and its graduates. Being the most established and well known medical school in Hong Kong, we have the responsibility to produce graduates who are amongst the best in the world.

In this issue, readers will also share with our staff and students their personal experience during the initial stage of medical education metamorphosis. 



Congratulations to...

Professor ST Fan for being awarded the very first Senior Medical Research Fellowship by the Croucher Foundation. Professor Fan is a Chair Professor in Surgery, and is internationally renowned for his achievements in perfecting liver transplantation.

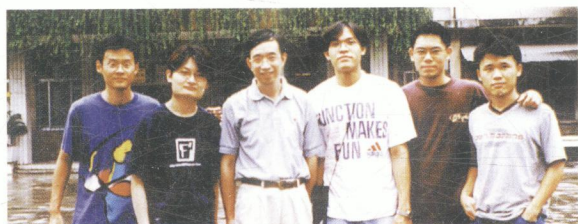
Professor AJ Hedley, Head, Department of Community Medicine, for being appointed a Justice of the Peace by the HKSAR Government. Professor Hedley is an active advocate of tobacco control and of smoking prevention for over 30 years. 

Exciting News ...

Traditional Chinese Medicine

In the 1997 and 1998 Policy Address by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) has been identified as one of the major innovative directions for development in Hong Kong. It is considered to be an value-added industry which, through technology transfer, can enhance the economic growth of the Region.

The Faculty of Medicine, recognizing the significant contribution of TCM in the health care of the Chinese population for thousands of years and its immense potential for application in modern medicine, was the first local institution to start the integration of basic science, western medicine and TCM. The history of TCM research in our Faculty can be traced back to the late 1960s. The first postgraduate student studying TCM on "The mechanism of the hypotensive effect of *Eucommia* (杜仲) ulmoides oliver" graduated in 1969. Since then, about seventy research projects have been conducted and the number of publications on their findings exceeded one hundred and seventy.



Year 1 students and Professor RYK Man visited the Nursing Faculty in Guangzhou under the Special Studies Module programme last summer.

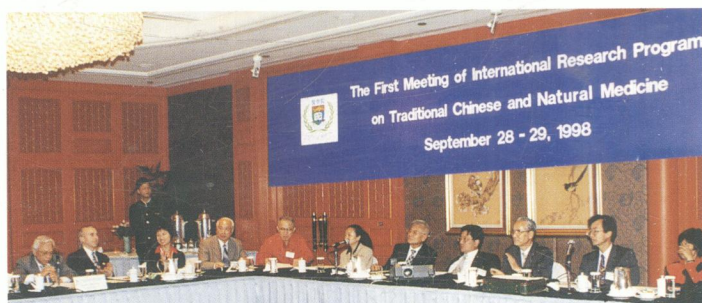
In the past two years, the Faculty, with the encouragement and support of the University, has been making great strides in TCM teaching and research. Thirty research projects, funded by a special grant from the Vice-Chancellor, have been started by individual Faculty members. The Faculty has also implemented several collaborative and multidisciplinary research programmes. The major objective of these new initiatives is to promote modernisation and standardisation of TCM applications through scientific evaluation and monitoring, evidence-based practice and randomised prospective clinical trials. The quality of herbs, drugs and techniques to be used have to be proven safe and effective to safeguard the health and welfare of the community.

One of the major multidisciplinary programmes newly established in the Faculty is the International Research Programme on Traditional Chinese and Natural Medicine (TCNM) which embraces basic research, clinical investigations, and technology transfer for product development, manufacturing and marketing. It has a strong international component involving investigators from China, Japan, Canada, the United States as well as our own colleagues from neuroscience, cardiovascular sciences, paediatrics and other clinical disciplines. To name a few of the projects, there are studies on the effects of *Radix Stephania Tetrandia* (粉防己根) on the cardiovascular system; the effects of *Ginseng* (花旗参) on neural protection and regeneration, attention deficit disorders and epilepsy. Other projects under planning include the use of TCM in stroke recovery, senile dementia, depression, schizophrenia and cancer.

Outstanding Researchers Awards

The following staff members have been conferred Outstanding Researcher Awards by the Vice-Chancellor for their international competitiveness and each of them has been given a grant of HK\$ 0.5 million in connection with their projects funded by the RGC 1998:

Name	Project
Professor YS Chan	Postnatal development of the rat otolith system
Professor KSE Cheah	Molecular and transgenic approaches for the identification of genes regulated by SOX9 during mouse development
Professor PW Lucas	The mechanical properties of plant foods (fruits, seeds and leaves) with respect to mammalian feeding patterns, with emphasis on the primates and evolution of man
Professor KDK Luk	A minimal invasive approach to anterior release in scoliosis by chemonucleolysis: an experimental study with the rabbit scoliosis model
Dr YL Siow	Role of Chinese medicinal compounds in the regulation of stress-activated protein kinase in ischaemia/ reperfusion



Local and overseas researchers attend the First Meeting of International Research Programme on Traditional Chinese and Natural Medicine.

Other than international collaboration, the Faculty has also organized joint projects within the University and with other local institutions and industry. Three research projects are being set up with the Tung Wah Hospital on the use of acupuncture in children with acute and chronic neurodevelopmental disabilities, acupuncture in the treatment of low back pain and TCM in the treatment of end stage lung cancer. Collaborative ventures are also under negotiation with other professional bodies such as the Hong Kong Baptist University, the HKU Faculty of Science, the Society of Traditional Chinese Medicine (香港中醫學會), as well as with the industry, on the development of TCM in the treatment of orthopaedic and menopausal problems, and the standardisation and clinical trials of Yun Zhi (雲芝).

The Faculty has been receiving generous support from the University as well as private donations for TCM research. A TCM centre has been planned in the new Medical Complex. In the interim period, other than departmental laboratories in which individual projects are being carried out, a TCM Laboratory is under construction in the Li Shu Fan Building.

Although there was no structured teaching of TCM in the old curriculum, medical undergraduates have been exposed to TCM in some of their lectures. Beginning last year, TCM electives and Special Study Modules have been formally introduced to our undergraduates. They are given the opportunity to experience the co-existence and integration of Chinese and Western Medicine at the Beijing Medical University and the Shanghai Second Medical University. The University has established the School of Traditional Chinese Medicine in June 1998 and it is now attached to the Faculty. Through the School, the Faculty in conjunction with the School of Professional and Continuing Education will offer a part-time Bachelor Degree programme in TCM from early 1999. To date, 60 applications have been received. Majority of the applicants are TCM practitioners and others include physiotherapists, teachers, management personnels, etc.

With its solid track record and active engagement in research and development of TCM, the Faculty is strategically poised to encompass basic science, western and Chinese Medicine to pilot TCM development in the next millennium.



Phytochemists are extracting active ingredients from natural sources.

Recent Events ...

University Open Days 1998

The University Open Days 1998 were held on October 17-18, 1998. The objectives of the Open Days this year were to promote communication between the University and the community and to introduce the University's programmes and facilities to the sixth formers. The Faculty organized a series of programmes for the visitors. Poster Exhibitions were held at Loke Yew Hall and Wei Lun Hall to introduce the Faculty and its curricula. Tours were arranged to visit the pre-clinical and clinical departments and the Department of Nursing Studies. Visitors had the opportunity to try on some computer aided learning programmes (CAL) at the CAL Laboratory. Sessions of clinical skills demonstrations were performed by the medical and nursing students in the Clinical Skills Laboratories. The Faculty also organized talks throughout these two days for visitors to understand in greater details the aims, themes, and structure of the medical and nursing curricula. We attracted about 4000 visitors and the programmes were well received.

May we take this opportunity to thank all the Faculty members and students who contributed their time and effort to these events. 🌟



from left: Dr Kenneth WT Tsang, Prof David Machin, Miss Sigourney Liu, Prof JPE Karlberg

Europe and North America. Co-hosted by the Clinical Trials Centre of the HKU Faculty of Medicine and the Clinical Trials and Epidemiology Research Unit of the Singapore National Medical Research Council, it has the distinction of being the first clinical trials conference ever held in Asia, and laid the milestone of the development of quality clinical trials in Asia. 🌟

Inaugural Symposium, Centre of Endocrinology & Diabetes

The Inaugural Symposium of The Centre of Endocrinology and Diabetes was held on 27 September, 1998 and brought together more than 200 attendants. The wide scope of applied basic and clinical scientific topics presented during the Symposium underscored the Centre's conviction to promoting research at various clinically relevant fronts through active interactions between members and with other researchers. At the Symposium, Professor LCK Low of the Department of Paediatrics generated tremendous interest among the Press by releasing his research data which indicated that local Chinese children had been growing along the American National Child Health Standards (NCHS). These data cast doubts on the contention that ethnic factors were responsible for the formerly observed height and weight differences between Chinese and reference Caucasian populations in the sixties. 🌟



Dr George Tsao was demonstrating a plastinated specimen to interested students.

The 5th Hong Kong International Cancer Congress

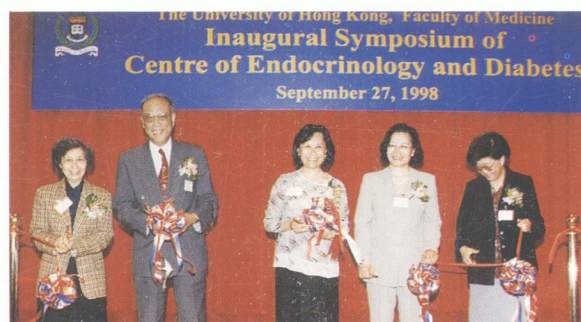
The 5th Hong Kong International Cancer Congress, jointly organized by the University of Hong Kong and Queen Mary Hospital, was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from November 8 to 11, 1998. The Congress included nine State-of-the-Art Lectures and 20 symposia, and was attended by over 720 registered delegates.



The officiating party at the opening ceremony: Dr Edgar Cheng, JP, Chairman of the University Grants Committee (front row, second from the right), Professor RE Pollock, Chairman of the Committee on Education, Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons (third from the right), and Professor John Wong, Chairman of the Organizing Committee (fourth from the right).

Asian Clinical Trials Conference 1998

The Asian Clinical Trials Conference 1998 was successfully held on 25-27 October, 1998, with over 260 medical professionals from Asia,



Ribbon cutting at the opening ceremony, from left: Professors RTT Young, YK Cheung, KSL Lam, WK Tang and Shi Yi-fan

Distinguished Visiting Scholar

Professor RG Webster BSc MSc (Otago) PhD (ANU) of the Department of Pathology, University of Tennessee, has recently been appointed as Professor in the Department of Microbiology, under the Distinguished Visiting Scholars Scheme. Professor Webster has had over 35 years experience with influenza viruses and his expertise extends from ecology to the molecular evolution of influenza viruses. His laboratory serves as the WHO collaboration laboratory on influenza viruses in lower animals and birds. In December 1997, Professor Webster and Professor KF Shortridge of the Department of Microbiology jointly established an international H5N1 task force of world-class influenza virologists. The achievements of this group in one month were unprecedented and has since established the infrastructure for a centre of excellence for influenza virus research in Hong Kong. 🌟

Alumni News ...

More informal gatherings with the alumni were initiated by the Dean to get together with our medical graduates. Representatives from Class '63 to '74 and Class '75 to '85 were invited to attend dinner functions on July 13 and September 23, 1998 respectively. Most of them were very interested to know more about the recent trend of the Faculty with regards to the new medical curriculum and research.

Through the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Chamson Chau, a prominent and successful member of our community, and a graduate of our University, offered the use of his Steward box for holding an informal dinner for subscribers of the Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association on Saturday, September 19, 1998. It was a convivial and enjoyable evening for different "generations" of graduates and benefactors of the University who shared their views, not only on the formation of our Alumni Association, but also on the choice of horses for winners, quinilla and tierce. Impromptu "syndicates" were set up for bets, but with no spectacular result. Everyone felt that it was an occasion to be repeated. 🏆



from top left: Dr Chang Fuk To, Dr Yu Yuk Ling, Dr Chan Chok Wan, Dr Leung Nai Kong, Dr Vincent Chau, Dr Chow Chun Hung, Dr Leung Tze Ching, Dr Lee Kwok Keung, Dr Wu Wai Yung, Prof Grace Tang, Dr Foo Kam So, Dr Cheung Yim Woon



from top left: Dr Tai Yau Ting, Dr Lee Tat Choi, Dr Leung Chi Chiu, Dr Li Fuk Him, Dr Michael Lin, Dr Li Shu Kin, Dr Lee Cho Key, Prof Grace Tang, Dr Yu Chau Leung, Dr Ho Pang Nin

Free E-mail Account for all Graduates

HKU is now providing all graduates with a free e-mail account for personal and non-commercial use. The purpose of this initiative is to provide an e-mail address for the graduates and to encourage them to use a convenient and inexpensive internet service for communication between the Alma Mater and themselves. Each e-mail account is given 5MB of mail box disk storage for mail messages on the host computer named "graduate.hku.hk".

Access to the e-mail account can be via telnet from ISP (Internet Service Provider) account or a HKU Graduate Account, or through a mail programme on a PC. To apply please visit the Convocation home page at <http://www.hku.hk/convocat/>, or contact the Computer Centre General Office (Tel: 2859 2491 Fax: 2559 7904) 🏆

New Medical Complex Update

Following the demolition of the old buildings (Northcote College of Education) on site, the site formation and the foundation contract has started. The contract, anticipated to complete by mid-1999, comprises of the formation of various platforms, slope stabilisation, site drainage works and the construction of bored piles and caps. The site is dominated by very steep slopes and high retaining walls which require rectification and stabilisation. The portion of Sassoon Road fronting this new development also needs widening because of the steep gradient and sharp bends.

As with other building developments in Hong Kong, it is unfortunate that some tree felling works have to be carried out, especially when slope stabilisation and road widening works are involved. After numerous discussions with the experts in Government departments and within our University on various options, we were advised to concentrate our efforts and resources on the transplant of the Banyan Tree which is in the best form and condition. The Banyan Tree to be preserved has to be well maintained and prepared for about a year, before transplantation to a new location near the main entrance to the new complex. The tree will form part of the compensatory landscaping and tree replanting scheme, which will include a central garden with trees and water feature as focal points and will also enhance landscaped treatment to the slopes. 🏆

Celebrating their 40th Anniversary, 70 energetic members including spouses, of Class '58 organized a one day activity on November 19, 1998. The trip down memory lane began with a tour to the Hong Kong University Main Campus, and the Sassoon Road Medical Campus and ended at the Queen Mary Hospital. In the evening, a reunion dinner was organized at the Loke Yew Hall. Special guests including Professor CT Huang, Professor Sir Harry SY Fang, Professor Rosie TT Young, Professor GB Ong, Professor YC Cheng, Professor Grace WK Tang, Professor SP Chow also attended the dinner. The occasion evoked much feeling of nostalgia, with messages of wit, wisdom and humour from several of our most prominent senior alumni. The menu which consisted of Russian Bortsch, Garoupa Meuniere, US Beef with Onion Sauce, and Jelly with ice-cream, was proposed by Dr Chiu Shin-chak and described by Dr David Mok as "menu B" in the student canteen in their school days. We do hope to share another lovely and memorable evening with them in their next Anniversary Celebration.



Energetic Medic'58 graduates were ever so keen to try the virtual reality equipment.



Medic'58 dinner group photo



Hello & Goodbye

Welcome to the Faculty!!

Biochemistry
Dr CHAN Danny
Research Officer
Dr HUANG Jian Dong
Assistant Professor
Dr SMITH David Keith
Research Assistant Professor
Nursing Studies
Dr SANDHU Gurpal K
Associate Professor
Ms CHAIR Sek Ying
Lecturer
Ms SAXE Joanne Mary
Assistant Professor (P/T)
Dr MELBY Carolyn Sue
Assistant Professor
Dr WONG Louis Bing Cheung
Assistant Professor

Dr TAYLOR Wendy Kathleen
Assistant Professor
Ms SIMPSON Margaret Anne
Assistant Professor
Obs & Gyn
Dr CHUI David Kwan Chi
Assistant Professor (Temp)
Medicine
Professor FUNG Peter CW
Professor in Medical Physics
Professor CHAN YEUNG Moira MW
Chair of Respiratory Medicine
Pathology
Dr KHOO Ui Soon
Assistant (Clinical) Professor
Psychiatry
Dr WONG Josephine Grace WS
Assistant Professor

Goodbye & Best Wishes!!

Retired
Diagnostic Radiology
Professor NGAN Henry
Head of Department

Resigned
Nursing Studies
Dr PAGE Aroha Evelyn
Assistant Professor
Ms JIANG Kerrie QY
Assistant Professor
Pathology
Professor MASAREI John RL

Forthcoming Events...

Hong Kong Surgical Forum	Postgraduate Symposium	Asia Pacific Cardiovascular Stenting Symposium
Date: January 16 - 17, 1999 (Sat. & Sun.) Venue: 5/F., Lecture Theatre Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital Information: Forum Secretary, Hong Kong Surgical Forum Department of Surgery The University of Hong Kong Medical Centre Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2855 4993 Fax: (852) 2818 1186	Date: January 31, 1999 (Sunday) Venue: Underground Lecture Theatre Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong Topic: Urogynaecology - A Multidisciplinary Approach Information: General Enquiries & Secretariat Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology The University of Hong Kong Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2855 4517 / 2855 4647 Fax: (852) 2855 0947	Date: March 25 - 27, 1999 (Thurs. to Sat.) Venue: Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre Information: Symposium Co-ordinator Department of Medicine Room 409, 4/F., Professorial Block Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2855 4607 Fax: (852) 2855 1143 E-mail: denise@hku.hk
Medical Research Conference	Fundamental Critical Care Support Provider Course (FCCS)	Education and Training Session on Healthy Lifestyle
Date: January 30 - 31, 1999 (Sat. & Sun.) Venue: Gold Coast Hotel Tuen Mun, Hong Kong Information: Conference Co-ordinator Department of Medicine Room 409, 4/F., Professorial Block Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2855 4607 Fax: (852) 2855 1143 E-mail: denise@hku.hk	Date: March 8 - 11, 1999 (Mon. to Thurs.) Venue: Adult Intensive Care Unit Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong Information: Course Co-ordinator Department of Medicine Room 409, 4/F., Professorial Block Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2855 4607 Fax: (852) 2855 1143 E-mail: denise@hku.hk	Date: August 22, 1998 - June 6, 1999 (once a month) Venue: Hong Kong Police Training School, Aberdeen Information: Dr P Adab Department of Community Medicine The University of Hong Kong Li Shu Fan Building 5 Sassoon Road, Hong Kong Tel: 2819 9209 E-mail: padab@hkucc.hku.hk

Our Views...

The goal of this newsletter is to foster and enhance the awareness of the activities in the Faculty of Medicine among Faculty members, alumni, relevant external institutions and individuals. This newsletter is published three times a year and sent free to all registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong. It is also sent to overseas Medical Schools and all graduates of the Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong. Please forward all correspondence to The Editor, Medical Faculty News, Faculty of Medicine, 1/F, Patrick Manson Building (North Wing), 7 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong. Fax: (852) 2974-0678, E-mail: dmwliu@hkucc.hku.hk

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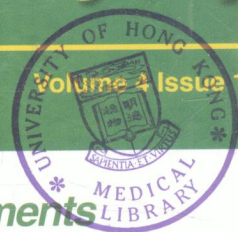
Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

April 1999

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch and up to date.



Multidisciplinary Research Initiatives in the Preclinical Departments

Five research groups have been formed by members of the four Preclinical Departments in the Faculty to facilitate and promote interactions and collaborations. These are: (I) Cardiovascular Research, (II) Cell and Cancer Biology, (III) Mechanisms of Disease, (IV) Molecular Interactions and Development, and (V) Neuroscience. Members within each research group meet regularly to share research ideas, experience and expertise. Fifteen projects are ongoing, with funding over 14.6 million dollars granted by RGC this year. Members of the research groups welcome suggestions and collaborations from colleagues of other departments within the Faculty and from other faculties in the University.

(I) Cardiovascular Research

Group Leader: Professor R Man (Pharmacology)

Expertise of members include lipid metabolism and its regulation using isolated tissues and cell culture techniques; in vitro effect of lipid mediators in the regulation of vascular function and in vivo measurement of blood flow. Hypercholesterolemia is an important risk factor of coronary heart disease. Statins, or HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, are now one of the most effective and widely used pharmacological agents in the control of hypercholesterolemia, and may have other actions that contribute to protection against coronary heart disease. The vascular functions of statins are being investigated. ☺



(back row from left) Ms YH Chung; Ms Mary Lee; Ms Fion Sung; Mrs Lily Ting; Mr Edward Lynn; Mr YK Chow; Mr GSK Man; Mr Adrian Quan; Ms Susan Leung; Dr Teoh Hwee; Ms Filly Cheung
(front row from left) Dr Mary Lung; Prof Ricky Man; Dr Karmin O

(II) Cell and Cancer Biology

Group Leader: Dr. George Tsao (Anatomy)

Research expertise of members include: cell proliferation, apoptosis, immortalization; epithelial differentiation; hormonal carcinogenesis; nutrient-hormonal interaction; hormonal receptor gene expression; molecular genetics of cancer; telomerase and telomere dynamics; cell injury and wound healing; DNA damage; inflammation and oxidative stress; NOS; transferrin receptor and calcium metabolism. Based on the existing strength and expertise of the members, research will focus on the mechanisms of carcinogenesis. Three research projects have been identified and they are: (1) Cytokine-induced oxidative hepatocellular injury; (2) Role of telomerase in apoptosis and cellular immortalization and (3) Role of IGF-1 and VEGF in sex hormone-induced prostate carcinogenesis. ☺



(from left) Dr G. Tipoe; Dr Tsao; Prof YC Wong; Prof TT Lo; Dr HP Sheng; Dr WM Tom; Dr Annie Cheung

(III) Mechanisms of Disease

Group Leader: Professor TM Wong (Physiology)

Members in this Group share a common research interest in the fundamental mechanisms underlying disease processes. Expertise among members ranges from research at subcellular levels through the study of isolated cells to intact animals and human subjects. A group project entitled "Adaptation and responses to tissue hypoxia, using coronary artery disease and stomach ulcer as models" has been established. Professor GW He (Surgery, HKU) and Drs. Y Huang, PS Leung and XQ Yao (Physiology, CUHK) will participate in the project. The fundamental aim is the prevention and effective treatment of diseases due to inadequate supply of oxygen. The disease models of coronary artery disease and peptic ulcer are highly prevalent in Hong Kong's stressful society. ☺

What's Inside

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Message from the Dean



May I take this opportunity to wish students, staff and Alumni all the best in the Year of the Rabbit when we shall march into the millennium.

I am happy to report that the HKU Medical Alumni Association has been incorporated. Under the Presidency of Professor Rosie Young and her eminent executive committee, I am certain that our Alumni will be united ever stronger to the benefit of the Faculty and the University. I am looking forward to its many activities and its inaugural gathering later in the year. Like our 110th anniversary celebration, it will again be another exciting occasion to meet old acquaintance and to renew friendship.

I had the good fortune to invite undergraduate students and staff members to a Spring Reception held at the Wei Lun Hall. It offered a social gathering through which I hope fraternity will start to grow. For me, it was an invaluable occasion to meet so many students and staff members outside the lecture halls and tutorial rooms. I could feel the warmth and the cohesiveness. The Faculty is the people in it and without them, the Faculty is but an empty office.

I hope that in the not too distant future, our students are able to mix well and learn from our Alumni. Together, we will form an invincible Medical Faculty. 🌐



(from left) Dr ML Fung; Dr M Koo; Dr HK Ballard; Dr IC Bruce; Prof TM Wong; Prof CH Cho; Dr JP Bourreau

(IV) Molecular Interactions and Development

Group Leader: Professor K Cheah (Biochemistry)



(back row from left) Dr David Smith; Dr JWO Tam; Dr WS O; Dr VMS Lam; Dr KM Yao; Dr Raymond Chau
(front row from left) Dr D Opstelten; Dr JD Huang; Dr Danny Chan; Dr NS Wong; Prof KSE Cheah; Dr MH Sham; Dr LYL Cheng; Dr Daisy Shum

The Molecular Interactions and Development Research Group is formed with a common research interest in understanding how different molecules interact and mediate the differentiation, proliferation and growth of cells during the different phases of life from embryo to adult in both health and disease. The Group has a diverse variety of expertise: protein biochemistry; glycobiology; molecular and cell biology; transgenic methodology; molecular genetics; embryology and histopathology. The following areas have received RGC

research funding award this year: (1) redox signaling in cancer cells, (2) transcription factors in growth and embryonic development of the brain, pancreas and skeleton, (3) relationship between the formation of bone and blood cells and (4) how a mutation in the enzyme glucose-6-dehydrogenase found in Chinese affects its function. 🌐

(V) Neuroscience

Group Leader: Professor SF Pang (Physiology)

Research interests of members focus on three areas: (1) Biorhythms and neural signaling; (2) Neuroprotection and neuroregeneration; (3) Development and Aging of the Nervous System. Members employ interdisciplinary approach for their investigations with extensive interaction within the Neuroscience Research Group. In addition to the daily small group discussions, the Group also meets regularly each month to discuss topics of common interest, direction of research and collaborations / interactions with neuroscience groups of institutions in China and other parts of the world. 🌐



(back row from left) Dr SYW Shiu; Prof YS Chan; Dr HKF Yip; Dr DKC Tay; Dr WT Wu
(front row from left) Prof SF Pang; Prof KF So; Dr A Poon; Prof F Tang; Dr KFJ Chan

Exciting News

Train-the-Trainer Programme for China



Prof QY Xu, President, Capital University of Medical Sciences (front row, 3rd from left); Prof GR Fan, President, Shanghai Second Medical University (front row, 5th from left); visitors from both Universities; the Vice-Chancellor & Dean of HKU and Faculty Members

The Presidents, Vice-Chancellor and Dean of three top universities of China (Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong) came together on 15 March 1999 in a rare and memorable display of unity to participate in a Signing Ceremony for a Collaboration Agreement cum Launching Ceremony of the Train-the-Trainer Programme at the University of Hong Kong.

The Train-the-Trainer Programme was introduced by Professor Paul K.H. Tam, Chair of Paediatric Surgery, the University of Hong Kong and has been generously sponsored for two years by the S.K. Yee Medical Foundation. The aim of the project is to improve the standard of surgical care of children in China through the establishment of a new and more effective method of medical education and training. The concept revolves around the transition of specialist training from traditional apprenticeship to modern systematic structured training, a development which has been in full force in Hong Kong and Western countries but is deficient in large

parts of China. To propagate this training method in the Mainland in the most efficient manner, a proliferating scheme of "train-the-trainers" has been devised.

In this scheme, two leading institutions, Beijing Children's Hospital of Capital University of Medical Sciences and Shanghai Children's Medical Center of the Shanghai Second Medical University will each send a surgeon and a nurse to the Division of Paediatric Surgery, Department of Surgery, the University of Hong Kong for intensive training for 1 year and 1/2 year respectively. These trainers, upon their return to Beijing and Shanghai, will set up similar training programmes for trainers from other parts of China. Trainers from Hong Kong will visit the two centers regularly to ensure the achievement and maintenance of a satisfactory standard of the training courses and to introduce new advances in surgical knowledge and care. The University of Hong Kong will also benefit from the valuable academic exchange.

Collaboration between the medical schools of Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai has long existed but the establishment of the Train-the-Trainer programme now has generated further understanding and enthusiasm among the staff of the medical schools. All parties involved have expressed a fervent wish that wider collaboration in other areas will similarly be fostered. ☺



Prof Paul Tam and the Train-the-Trainer programme candidate Dr Zhou Hong

Collaborative Research Centre on Reproductive Medicine



Professor Grace Tang; Prof Chen Sheng-Qiu, Vice-President, The Fourth Military Medical University; Prof SL Wong, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, HKU; Professor Liu Zhen-Li, President, Tangdu Hospital; Prof PC Ho, Head, Dept of O&G, HKU

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology signed an agreement with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Tangdu Hospital, The Fourth Military Medical University (FMMU), Xian on 19 March 1999 to establish a collaborative research centre on reproductive medicine in Xian. The Centre will be located at the Tangdu Hospital in Xian. Professor Chen Sheng-qiu (Vice President, FMMU) and Professor Liu Zhen-Li (President, Tangdu Hospital) of Xian, Professor SL Wong (Pro-Vice Chancellor), Professor Grace WK Tang (Dean, Faculty of Medicine, HKU) and Professor PC Ho (Head of Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, HKU) attended the signing ceremony. The objectives for the establishment of this Centre are :

1. to improve the standard of reproductive medicine in Northwest China
2. to exchange clinical information between the two departments
3. to promote research collaboration between the two departments
4. to increase the capability of the two departments in applying for research grants ☺

BNursing (Full-time) Programme Accredited by the Hong Kong Nursing Board

At its meeting of 27 November, 1998, the Nursing Board of Hong Kong accredited the Bachelor of Nursing Degree (Full-time) Programme offered by the Department of Nursing Studies of the University of Hong Kong. Accreditation panels of the Board conducted extensive reviews of curricular material and supporting documentation, site visits to the clinical agencies used for clinical practica, and to the Department of Nursing Studies. Subsequently, the Board judged that the comprehensive programme, in its present format, meets the standards required for students to acquire the competence required to function as registered nurses. Graduates of the programme, who have satisfactorily completed all programme requirements prior to 2003 will be eligible for direct registration with the Board as registered nurses. As the Nursing Board will initiate a Universal Licensing Examination in 2003, all graduates of nursing programmes in Hong Kong in, or after, 2003 will have to pass the Universal Licensing Examination of the Board before they can be licensed to practise as registered nurses. ☺

Recent Events

Centre of Alimentary Research and Education (CARE)

The Centre was established in 1998 in the Faculty of Medicine as a Centre of Excellence. The first council meeting was held in December 1998 during which the present office bearers were elected. At present the membership includes the Director, Professor SK Lam (Medicine), Deputy Director, Professor CH Cho (Pharmacology), Honorary Secretary, Dr BCY Wong (Medicine), Honorary Treasurer, Dr WM Hui (Medicine) and Council members, Professor John Wong (Surgery), Professor Paul Tam (Surgery), Professor Peter Fung (Medical Physics) and Dr SY Leung (Pathology); and a total of 32 fellows from various departments of the Faculty of Medicine and Queen Mary Hospital. ☺



Regular monthly research seminar organized by CARE

RGC Central Allocation Vote Award for group research project led by Faculty members

A substantial grant under the RGC Central Allocation Vote for group research has been awarded to a multidisciplinary, inter-institutional team of researchers coordinated by Prof. K. Cheah in the Faculty. These researchers have chosen to ignore departmental and institutional boundaries to share expertise and work together as a team on a programme with the central theme of "Understanding gene function by tissue-specific gene inactivation". The Team consists of seven principal investigators from the Medical Faculty [Prof. K. Cheah, Dr. M.H. Sham (Biochemistry), Prof. L.C. Chan (Pathology), Dr. S.Y. Chan (Paediatrics)], Dr SK Chung (HKU's Institute of Molecular Biology), Prof. J. Wang, Dr. H. Xue (HKUST) and 7 co-investigators from the Faculty of CUHK, HKUST and The Children's Medical Research Institute, Australia. In the project they will produce genetically altered mice to study the roles of several genes involved in leukaemia and in the development of the skeleton and brain. They will use the latest transgenic technology to inactivate these genes, either in specific tissues of a mouse, or at defined time points in its life, and they will cooperate in the analysis of the resulting mouse mutants. By this approach, better insight into the function of genes and mechanisms of disease can be gained. Through this joint effort, a multidisciplinary, competitive and productive research team of a critical size will be built in order to make an impact on this important research area, currently at the fore-front of the molecular life sciences. ☺

Induction Ceremonies of Ivy Wu and Cheng Yu Tung Fellowship

Reception for the Lady Ivy Wu Fellowship 1998/99

The Mrs Ivy Wu Fellowship Foundation normally provides for up to fifteen Fellowships, to enable academic staff from the medical institutions in PR China to study for six-month periods in preclinical or clinical

departments of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong. The first intake was in 1994/95.

The fifth batch of Fellows for 98/99 have been selected and a reception was held at the School of Postgraduate Medical Education and Training (SPMET) on 20th November, 1998. Attending this occasion were Lady Ivy Wu, Dr and Mrs Clyde Wu, representatives of the Xinhua News Agency, the Dean, Faculty teaching staff, new Fellows and past Fellows who are currently MPhil and PhD candidates. Addresses were given by Professor Grace WK Tang (the Dean), Professor John CY Leong (Director, SPMET), Dr Clyde Wu (representing the Mrs Ivy Wu Fellowship Foundation), Professor Chu Zhinong (Head of Department of Education, Sciences and Technology, Xinhua News Agency) and Dr SL Ho (Department of Medicine). Five present and past Fellows also made their addresses. ☺



Mrs Ivy Wu Reception group photo
(front row from left) Prof CW Ogle, Deputy Director; Prof Chu Zhinong, Xinhua News Agency; Prof GWK Tang, Dean; Lady Ivy Wu; Prof JCY Leong, Director, SPMET; Dr Clyde Wu, Lady Ivy Wu Fellowship Foundation Representative; Mrs Clyde Wu

Reception for the Dr Cheng Yu Tung Fellows of 1998/99

The Dr Cheng Yu Tung Fellowship Foundation annually provides for four different categories of scholars, selected from medical institutions in PR China, to visit clinical & preclinical departments of the Medical Faculty of the University of Hong Kong for 8 weeks to 12 months.

The first intake in 1998/99 included two Visiting Professors, two Visiting Fellows, five Research Assistants and five Research Fellows. A reception was held for them at the SPMET on 7th December 1998. Attending the function were Dr Cheng Yu Tung, Dr YK Sun (representing the Cheng Yu Tung Fellowship Foundation), Mr Cui Ning and Mr Li Ling of the Xinhua News Agency, Professor YS Chan, the Associate Dean, Faculty teaching staff and the new Fellows. ☺



Dr Cheng Yu Tung Reception group photo
(front row, from left) Prof CW Ogle, Deputy Director; Prof YS Chan, Associate Dean; Dr Cheng Yu Tung; Dr YK Sun, Dr Cheng Yu Tung Fellowship Foundation Representative; Mr Chi Ning, Xinhua News Agency; Prof JCY Leong, Director; Prof SK Lam, Department of Medicine; Mr Li Ling, Xinhua News Agency

Recent Events

The Postgraduate Symposium 1998



Some of the Certificate of Merit winners

On December 16, 1998, ninety-seven Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) candidates took part in this annual symposium for research postgraduate (RPG) students to present their research projects before specialist panels and peers. Not only was it a valuable and educational experience for RPG candidates, participation in the Symposium could also be counted towards fulfilling the requirement for seminar presentation under the Faculty's RPG progress monitoring scheme.

Hearty congratulations to the following winners of the Certificate of Merit on best presentations:

Cancer:

CHAN Tsung Leung, Chris (PhD, Pathology)
CHOW Wing Han, Vivian (MPhil, Surgery)

Cardiovascular System:

BIAN Jin Song (PhD, Physiology)

Community Medicine and Management:

HO Sai Yin, Daniel (PhD, Community Medicine)

Endocrinology and Reproduction:

XI Si Chuan (PhD, Physiology)

Molecular Biology:

HO Tsun Bond, Horace (MPhil, Institute of Molecular Biology)
JIANG Zhi Rong (PhD, Institute of Molecular Biology)

Nutrition, Growth and Gastrointestinal System:

GUO Xin (PhD, Pharmacology)

Renal System:

LYNN Edward G (PhD, Pharmacology)

Respiratory System:

CHAN Chi Hang (PhD, Biochemistry)

Traditional Chinese Medicine:

CHEUNG, Filly (MPhil, Pharmacology)

Visit of the Harvard Team

Professor Gordon T. Moore, Professor of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, Harvard Medical School, Professor Orah S. Platt, Professor of Paediatrics, Harvard Medical School and Professor Vic Neufeld, Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Epidemiology, McMaster University visited the Faculty of Medicine on February 23 - 25, 1999. During their visit, workshops on the clinical curriculum and monitoring and evaluation had been organized. The Dean, Associate Deans, all Heads of Departments, Academic Advisor as well as core members of the Undergraduate Education Committee were invited to attend. We exchanged our views and experience on the medical reform with the Harvard team who in turn gave us valuable insights on the new clinical curriculum and the long-term evaluation and monitoring of our medical students and graduates.

Besides the workshops, a seminar on "Medical Education in Hong Kong: Opportunities and Challenges" was held on February 25, 1999 at Wang Guangwu Lecture Hall, Graduate House. The seminar consisted of two parts. The first part was a review of the progress that the Faculty of Medicine had made in reforming the medical curriculum, with special emphasis on the opportunities that had nurtured its development and the challenges that were facing us ahead. In the second part of the seminar, Professor Moore, Professor Platt and Professor Neufeld talked about monitoring and evaluation of the curriculum and teaching quality assurance. The Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, honorable guests from the Hospital Authority, HK Medical Association and Department of Health as well as our Faculty members and medical students attended the seminar and shared their views on medical education in Hong Kong.



(back row from left) Prof YS Chan, Associate Dean (Research); Prof YL Lau, Associate Dean (Education); Prof RHS Liang, Associate Dean (Clinical Service); Prof GT Moore; Prof V Neufeld (front row from left) Prof GWK Tang, Dean; Prof OS Platt

The Second Meeting of International Research Programme on Traditional Chinese and Herbal Medicine

The meeting was successfully held in Beijing on March 12 - 14, 1999. It was opened by Professor Ba De-nian, President of National Academy of Medical Sciences, attended by 42 participants and closed by Professor

Readers who wish to obtain a copy of the abstract of the event can contact :
Mr Wilson Chan, Tel: 2819 9219 Fax: 2818 4913, E-mail: wwschan@hkucc.hku.hk

Recent Events

Zhu Qing-sheng, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Public Health and Director of State Administration of TCM.

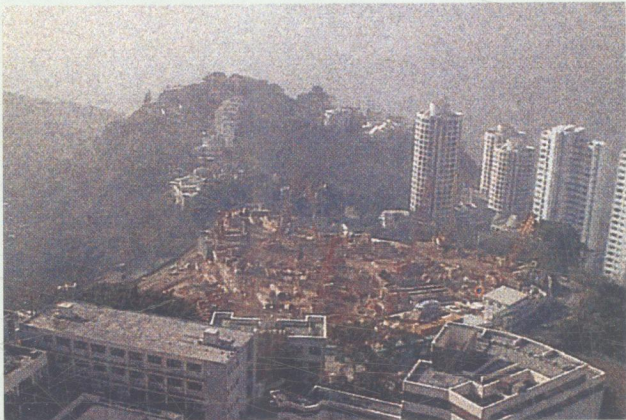
Supported by the Vice-Chancellor, this programme was officially established in the First Meeting held in Hong Kong in September, 1998 and consists of three parts which are basic research, clinical studies and technology transfer. Its objective is to demonstrate the pharmacological and functional importance of extracts containing mixtures of chemicals as compared to individual active chemicals.

At this meeting, the preliminary findings presented were in full support of the objective of the programme. The technology transfer part of the programme was also described to explain how products could actually be developed from basic and clinical research, manufactured and put into worldwide market.



Participants of the second meeting

New Medical Complex Update

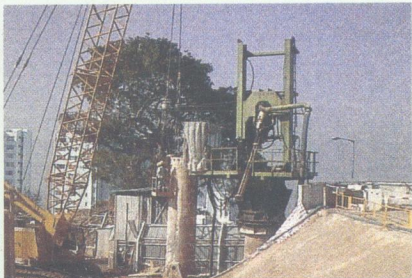


General view of site area

The Site Formation, Foundation and Pile Caps Contract works for the New Medical Complex, commenced in July 1997, is generally on schedule. The slope formation works along both

Victoria Road and Sassoon Road were in good progress; and as part of a comprehensive landscaping scheme, seven trees have been transplanted. By the end of March 1999, all of the bored piles were completed. Construction of pile caps will follow, and the contract is anticipated to complete on time by early July 1999.

Tenders for the main building contract were received in mid-March 1999. The project team is pleased to report that the tenders are within budget. The technical and financial aspects of the tenders are being examined by the consultants. A tender report will be submitted to the University Grants Committee for consideration. The main building contract will start in July 1999 as scheduled, after completion of the foundation works.



Construction of bored pile

Hello & Goodbye

Welcome to the Faculty!!

Name	Academic Title	Department
Dr FENG Zhe Hui	Research Assistant Professor	Medicine
Dr LAN Hui Yao	Assistant Professor	Medicine
Dr GUAN Xin	Associate Professor	Clinical Oncology
Dr FONG Daniel YT	Research Assistant Professor	Clinical Trials Centre

Goodbye & Best Wishes!!

Retired

Name	Academic Title	Department
Professor LAWTON John WM	Reader (Clinical)	Pathology

Alumni Update

Medic Class '88 Reunion



Medic '88 reunion dinner group photo

our eyes. These were captured by a CD ROM which also contained up-date correspondence address of our classmates.

At the end of the evening, everyone discussed enthusiastically about the use of the balance from the banquet fund, and majority agreed that we should donate it to the Alma Mater. We also brought up the idea of setting up our own home page within the medical faculty web site and we would follow up on this issue. After taking group photographs, our gathering came to an end and everyone agreed that we should have another similar gathering soon, before our 15th or 20th anniversary.

We wish to thank the External Relations Office of the University of Hong Kong (especially Ms June Shum) and Ms Diana Liu of the Faculty of Medicine who helped to make this gathering materialize. In future, if any classmate of medic '88 changes his/her correspondence address, please inform the Alumni Office, or send a letter to me. I hope the photographs will reach you all very soon and that we would meet again in the near future. ☺

Dr Book Kwok-shing

HKUMAA



(back row from left) Dr Michael Mak;
Dr David Fang; Dr Raymond Wu;
Prof MP Leung
(front row from left) Dr Gordon Low;
Prof Rosie Young; Mrs Rosie Low

The University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association Limited (HKUMAA) has been incorporated under the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 32) with registration number 668106 on February 26, 1999.

The subscribers and their appointed first Executive Committee members are as follows:

Professor Rosie TT Young (President & Subscriber)
Professor CHAN Tai-kwong (Vice-President & Subscriber)
Dr Chiu Shin-chak (Vice-President & Subscriber)
Dr Gerold H Choa (Subscriber)
Professor Chow Shew-ping (Executive Committee Member & Subscriber)
Dr David Fang (Executive Committee Member & Subscriber)
Professor Sir Harry SY Fang (Subscriber)
Dr Peter CY Lee (Subscriber)
Dr Lee Kin-hung (Executive Committee Member & Subscriber)
Professor Lee Shiu-hung (Subscriber)
Dr Edward CH Leong (Executive Committee Member & Subscriber)
Professor John CY Leong (Executive Committee Member & Subscriber)
Professor Maurice P Leung (Honorary Secretary & Subscriber)
Dr Leung Nai-kong (Executive Committee Member & Subscriber)
Professor Leung Ping-chung (Subscriber)
Dr Anita MC Li (Subscriber)
Dr Donald KT Li (Honorary Treasurer & Subscriber)
Dr Li Shu-pui (Subscriber)
Dr Clarence KC Loong (Subscriber)
Professor Ma Chung Ho-kei (Subscriber)
Dr Michael HH Mak (Executive Committee Member & Subscriber)
Professor Grace WK Tang (Ex-officio & Subscriber)
Professor Sir David Todd (Subscriber)
Professor Rosamond LC Wong (Executive Committee Member & Subscriber)
Dr Raymond WY Wu (Executive Committee Member & Subscriber)

Two Executive Committee meetings were held to discuss membership drive and major directions of the Association. The graduate/staff membership fees as resolved for annual subscription is HK\$500 and life membership is HK\$5,000 with an entrance fee of HK\$1,000. A special offer has been announced that for any alumni joining the Association before August 20, 1999, the entrance fee for both categories of memberships shall be waived. The Association also plans to introduce the following activities in the future:

- Hotline advice for clinical management
- Regular meetings to discuss topics of mutual interests
- Interactive linkage with the Faculty
 - (i) graduates forming advisory groups for the Faculty
 - (ii) providing opportunities for medical graduates to return to the teaching hospital for continuing medical education
 - (iii) interaction between teachers of the Faculty and all alumni in practice
- Discussions on medical issues for strategic advice on government policies
- On-line electronic medical literature search
- Planning of the Alumni Floor in the New Medical Complex for exclusive use by Association Members

Subcommittees will be formalized in the near future on development and general affairs, membership drive, finance, event organization, Alumni Floor and homepage. If any members are interested in contributing towards any of the mentioned areas, please write to the Honorary Secretary, Prof MP Leung c/o Miss Diana Liu at fax: 2974 0678 or email: dmwliu@hkucc.hku.hk.

As of April 8, 1999, 205 applications have been received. Some members who applied early have been invited by the Dean

to attend the New Medical Complex Ground Breaking Ceremony cum The Hong Kong Jockey Club Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony held on April 13, 1999.

Graduates who have not received the invitation letter by the President with the application form please inform Miss Diana Liu by phone at 2819 5505 or fax at 2974 0678. If you have received them, please send in your completed application form along with a crossed cheque payable to "The University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association Limited". The Association needs your support.

A special note of thanks to class '88 for their kind donation of HK\$18,500 to support the HKUMAA.

Through the initiation of our Dean and the Chairman of the HKUMAA, Professor Young, the Victorian Chapter, Australia of the HKUMAA was formed recently. Their leader, Dr Gordon Low, and his wife visited Hong Kong and were welcomed by Professor Young and

Executive Committee Members. Possible collaborative activities between the two associations were discussed. HKUMAA/Faculty members would be welcomed to give lectures while visiting Victoria, Australia. If you are interested to meet the members of the Victorian Chapter, please contact Miss Diana Liu of the Faculty Office.



Members of the Victorian Chapter

Forthcoming Events

Annual Physiology Meeting

Date : May 21-22, 1999 (Fri. & Sat.)
Venue : Lower Theatre, Li Shu Fan Building, 6 Sassoon Road, Hong Kong
Information : Dr SYW Shiu, Department of Physiology
Tel: (852) 2819 9162 Fax: (852) 2855 9730

Head & Neck Course

Date : June 3-5, 1999 (Thur. to Sat.)
Venue : 5/F., Lecture Theatre, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Miss Catherine Cheung
Tel: (852) 2855 4621 Fax: (852) 2855 4990

International Comprehensive Head & Neck Course 99

Date : June 8-9, 1999 (Tue. & Wed.)
Venue : Tianjin, China
Information : Miss Catherine Cheung
Tel: (852) 2855 4621 Fax: (852) 2855 4990

Postgraduate Symposium on Prenatal Screening and Diagnosis of Chromosomal Disorders

Date : June 12 & 13, 1999 (Sat. & Sun.)
Venue : Underground Lecture Theatre, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : The General Office, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2855 4517 Fax: (852) 2855 0947

Symposium on Quality Assurance of Clinical Trials

Date : June 16, 1999 (Wednesday)
Venue : 2/F., Block K, Doctor's Common Room, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Mr James Thorburn, Clinical Trials Centre, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2819 2881 Fax: (852) 2974 0658

Foot & Ankle Symposium

Date : June 26-27, 1999 (Sat. & Sun.)
Venue : Wang Gung Wu Lecture Hall, The University of Hong Kong
Information : Dr Samson Chan, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
The University of Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2855 4654 Fax: (852) 2817 4392

Foot Strategic Meeting

Date : June 29, 1999 (Tuesday)
Venue : 5/F., Lecture Theatre, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Ms Carmen Liu, Department of Orth Surgery, The University of Hong Kong
Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2855 4107 Fax: (852) 2817 4392

Yang Hsueh Chi Lecture

Date : June 29, 1999 (Tuesday)
Venue : 5/F., Lecture Theatre, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Ms Carmen Liu, Department of Orth Surgery, The University of Hong Kong
Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2855 4107 Fax: (852) 2817 4392

Hong Kong Surgical Forum - Summer 1999

Date : July 3-4, 1999 (Sat. & Sun.)
Venue : Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre
Information : Forum Secretary, Department of Surgery
University of Hong Kong Medical Centre, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
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Hong Kong Medical Forum '99 (HKMF '99)

Date : July 3-4, 1999 (Sat. - Sun.)
Venue : Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre
Information : Ms Denise Yu / Professor CP Lau,
Department of Medicine, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2855 4607 Fax: (852) 2855 1143

Post HKMF '99 Conference

Date : July 5, 1999 (Monday)
Venue : Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Beijing
Information : Ms Denise Yu / Professor CP Lau,
Department of Medicine, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
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Our Views

The goal of this newsletter is to foster and enhance the awareness of the activities in the Faculty of Medicine among Faculty members, alumni, relevant external institutions and individuals. This newsletter is published three times a year and sent free to all registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong. It is also sent to overseas Medical Schools and all graduates of the Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong. Please forward all correspondence to The Editor, Medical Faculty News, Faculty of Medicine, 1/F, Patrick Manson Building (North Wing), 7 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong. Fax: (852) 2974-0678, E-mail: dmwliu@hkucc.hku.hk

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Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

August 1999

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch and up to date.

Volume 4 Issue 2

Spotlight on Department of Nursing Studies

Background

Advances in knowledge and technology, increasing complexity in every aspect of life, demographic changes, declining resources, and globalization are just a few of the forces propelling changes in the education, roles, and image of nurses. The traditional image of the nurse as a "task-oriented technician" is changing to one of the nurse as an autonomous health care professional, able to work independently, and interdependently with other members of the health care team, in providing holistic health care.

Professional nurses today require a sound knowledge of the art and science of nursing; the biological sciences and humanities; critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills. They need open and inquiring minds and a tolerance of uncertainty and ambiguity. They need a command of the relationships among theory, research, and practice which comprise the developing knowledge base. Nurses need to cooperate and collaborate with clients and other professionals to advance knowledge of health promotion, maintenance, and restoration and to translate that knowledge into policies and practices. Throughout the international community, nurses are working as practitioners, administrators, educators, researchers, theoreticians, and entrepreneurs and demonstrating contribution to the welfare of individuals, families and communities.

High costs, limited access, and concerns about quality are major challenges facing today's health care system worldwide. (Nursing Education's Agenda for the 21st Century, 1998). Nurses need to participate in restructuring the health care system to focus on clients and their health; to help create a system which shifts its focus from illness and cure to health promotion and disease prevention, and which provides services in places convenient to clients - their homes, schools and workplaces.

Nurses must be proactive in assessing the needs, problems, and resources of the health care system in Hong Kong and Asia; prioritizing them; and developing strategic plans to co-create conditions for healthy living in the global community. We need to take the best of the traditions and practices of the East and West and forge a new identity for nursing which will enable nurses to provide scientifically sound, culturally compatible, ethically-based client care and leadership in shaping health care in the 21st century. This will best be accomplished by educating nurses at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels with the competencies necessary to provide this leadership.



Opening Ceremony, Department of Nursing Studies, November 1995, with Professor SP Chow, Ex-Dean of Faculty of Medicine, Sophia Chan & students.

Development of Tertiary Nursing Education at HKU

Tertiary nursing education at the University of Hong Kong began in February 1994, when the Faculty of Medicine, in conjunction with the School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE), initiated a three-year, part-time, post-registration honours degree programme. In September 1995, the Department of Nursing Studies was created within the Faculty of Medicine, and forty-two students were admitted to a four-year, full-time pre-registration Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) programme. Since then, the Department has incorporated the post-registration degree programme, and initiated three diploma/certificate level programmes in Diabetes Education, Child Health, and Oncology Nursing. In February 1997, in conjunction with the Department of Pharmacology, we admitted our first doctoral student. Currently, we have 25 full and part-time staff teaching 364 students enrolled in three programmes: the Pre-registration and Post-registration honours degree programmes, and the Doctor of Philosophy programme. A Master of Nursing programme in Advanced Practice will be in place in September, 1999. In this coming December, our first classes of graduates of the Pre-registration & Post-registration Programmes will be awarded their Bachelor of Nursing degrees.



Prize Winners at our International Nurses' Day Health Fair

Philosophy and Mission

The philosophy which guides the curricula of the Department is based on the principles of Primary Health Care. Our Departmental mission is to prepare competent, beginning practitioners at the baccalaureate level; advanced practitioners at the master's level, and nurse scientists at the doctoral level, who will help to shape and direct the development of nursing and health care in Hong Kong and China; to generate and disseminate knowledge which will advance the discipline of nursing; to improve health care delivery through service to the local, regional and international community; and to foster an environment conducive to excellence in the study and practice of nursing and which promotes the health, well-being, and development of its students, staff, and clients.

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Educational Programmes

The educational programmes of the Department are driven by the present and predicted social and health care needs of Hong Kong and China, the need to develop cost-effective ways of improving the quality of life and health care, and the need to advance knowledge in the discipline of nursing. They are referenced to the trends of the international health care community and the best nursing education programmes worldwide. The programmes provide an orientation to community-based primary health care, emphasizing health promotion measures which are scientifically and ethically based, culturally relevant, and responsive to the needs of diverse groups and under-served populations.

The Department is committed to excellence in nursing education. Four of our staff have been recipients of Teaching Excellence Awards and innovative, research-based projects on various aspects of nursing education, namely, problem-based learning, critical thinking, contract learning, web-supported instruction, and virtual reality, are currently underway. In December 1998, the Nursing Board of Hong Kong accredited our Pre-registration Programme. As a result, students who entered this Programme between September 1995 and September 1998 will be licensed, upon graduation, to practise as registered nurses in Hong Kong. With the recent introduction of the Universal Licensing Examination (ULE) by the Nursing Board, students admitted since September 1999 must complete the ULE in order to receive the license to practise.



Graduation Dinner, Class 1999, first batch of graduates, Full-time BNurs Programme.

Research

Although the primary emphasis of the Department has been on the development of its teaching programmes, we have simultaneously begun to develop a research focus and a culture conducive to incorporating research as an integral part of each component of our multifaceted academic role. In order to consolidate the energy of staff and to enhance the impact of their research output, particularly at this developmental stage of the Department, we have selected, as our primary research thrust, the health and well being of girls and women. By developing a departmental research focus which emphasizes the interrelationships among theory, research and clinical practice in a defined population, we believe that we will contribute to the development of nursing knowledge and health care locally, regionally and internationally.

Since the creation of the Department, our staff has been awarded over \$4 million in internal and external grant competitions; published 57 papers; and presented 28 conference papers from the local through to the international level. A great deal of effort has been placed on developing the research knowledge and skills of staff, and the departmental infrastructure which is required to operationalize our research mission. In addition to research projects on aspects of health care and nursing education which are currently in progress, we are generating intra- and inter-disciplinary research teams to study primary, secondary, and tertiary health care issues of women throughout the life cycle in conjunction with the Department of Surgery (Breast Cancer); Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Violence against Women and Children); and Community Medicine

(Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment). We are also in the process of developing an Advanced Nursing Practice Center within the Department in which research-based nursing care will be delivered, studied and taught using a targeted population of women and girls.




Professor Patricia Sullivan, Dr. Agnes Tiwari, Dr. Sophia Chan at the RGC visit, June, 1999.

Clinical Practice

In order to maintain clinical competence and credibility with patients, students and professional colleagues, all teaching staff engage in a two-week Clinical Update Programme (CUP) annually. During this period, staff update and refine their advanced practice skills with a selected population in hospital and/or community settings. The majority of staff conduct their CUP locally and this year have elected to practise in women's health (well-women's care including breast health; midwifery; maternal-child health; gender-based violence); intensive and coronary care; mental health/psychiatric nursing; medical and surgical oncology; renal and burns nursing; home/community health nursing; Chinese medicine; and hospice and palliative care nursing. Seven members of staff are conducting their CUPs in England, Canada and USA in diverse areas of practice, including trauma and orthopaedic nursing, bone marrow transplantation, smoking cessation, nurse-midwifery, forensic nursing and adult nurse practitioner practice.

Service Development

Members of the teaching staff are active in committee work at the Departmental, Faculty, and University levels. As members and leaders in professional associations, honours societies in nursing, editorial and advisory boards, and as consultants in nursing practice, education, administration and research, they are actively contributing to the development of nursing locally, regionally, and internationally. 

*Professor PL Sullivan
Head, Department of Nursing Studies*



Demonstration of Nursing Skills in the Nursing Skills Lab, Open Days, 1998

Interview with Miss Li Kwai Moon (Full-time nursing student)



Q : Why did you choose the nursing profession ?

A : Being born into a large family, I always have to take care of my nephews and nieces and perhaps that is why I am interested in taking care of others. I had no specific intention of becoming a nurse until I met a friend's mother who was a nurse - she transpired the image of a decisive and capable character. I prefer to be a nurse

rather than other health care professional because a nurse can have more opportunity to interact with patients.

Q : Why did you choose the nursing curriculum in HKU ?

A : Since HKU has a Faculty of Medicine of many years' standing, I think it should provide a solid background for teaching of a nursing curriculum.

Q : Why did you choose to study nursing in a university rather than a nursing school ?

A : Even if I chose the nursing school, I would like to obtain a nursing degree eventually, so I decided to go directly for a degree rather than a diploma. Furthermore, I think the university curriculum provides more opportunity for learning of theory and critical analysis whereas the school programme is more of an apprenticeship.

Q : What was your feeling about your first year of university study?

A : I felt like a dummy in the first semester. I attended a large number of lectures that were not directly related to nursing e.g. Physiology, Anatomy. I felt better in the second semester because I could learn some skills which were more relevant to the regular duties of a nurse. I was excited about being placed on wards, but I was very frustrated at not being able to help much. We also took the opportunity to communicate with patients.

Q : Did you learn communication skills in the nursing curriculum ?

A : Yes. Apart from communication skills, teaching of behavioral psychology and sociology also helped us to understand clients.

Q : Throughout the four years of study, what is the specialty area that you like most, and why?

A : I like several areas rather than just one: medical/surgical/orthopaedic nursing, community nursing and high dependency nursing.

Q : What do you dislike most and why?

A : Gynaecology. This is because I feel disappointed and frustrated in certain

situations, such as abortion cases. Every time I see the file of a client who has repeated abortions performed, I feel very uncomfortable. She could have been counselled by either doctors or nurses about effective contraceptive methods.

Q : Are you prepared to handle these emotional situations if you pursue nursing as your career? Did the nursing curriculum teach you how to handle these feelings?

A : Yes. Indeed teachers and classmates support each other in tackling these feelings. There were two sessions that discussed on how to handle these personal feelings. I didn't get much out of the sessions at that time, but I could apply the handling skills during the practicum.

Q : You are one of the first batch of graduates of the nursing curriculum, what is your feeling towards the four-year study?

A : I am especially interested in problem-based learning on aspects of behavioral science. PBL enhanced initiatives, communication and sharing. Some tutors were very supportive in terms of study progress and even personal development.

There were times we felt somewhat confused and uncertain about the curriculum because there was insufficient information, such as the entitlement of an honours degree, courses in the coming year, etc., though the situation is improving.

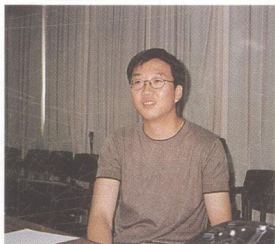
Q : What do you think about the future prospect of nursing as a profession, especially for a degree nurse?

A : It is apparent that the role of nurses has been changed to be an independent decision-maker rather than a dependent helper. The global trend reveals that a baccalaureate degree will soon be a pre-requisite in order to join the nursing profession. I also believe that primary health care, being the theme of the present nursing curriculum, will become a new focus of nursing studies. Nurse practitioners, not only doctors, will play an important role in preventive care and primary care. I personally feel that degree nurses are not that different from school nurses. I heard from ward managers that degree nurses tend to have more initiatives and critical thinking. Degree nurses are more equipped with a wide spectrum of knowledge whereas school nurses are more familiar with skills.

Q : What is your plan after graduation?

A : I need to polish my clinical skills and get some practical experience before I proceed to a master degree. In the long-term, I wish to go in the direction of a nurse practitioner. ☺

Interview with Mr. Vincent Chan Hin Cheong (Part-time nursing student)



Q : Why did you choose nursing to be your career?

A : Including the time as a student nurse at the nursing school, I have been working in the profession for nine years already. I initially joined the nursing school for two reasons: my examination results didn't enable me to enter a university for further studies, and my ex-girl friend entered the nursing school.

Q : Where did you study nursing initially? How was it?

A : I graduated from the Queen Mary Hospital Nursing School. In the beginning, I felt that the nursing profession was not suitable for me. After a period of communication with tutors and classmates, I gradually developed an interest in the field. Upon completion of the three years at nursing school, I was glad and proud that I made the decision to stay on.

Q : You are now practising as a registered nurse(RN), so why do you take this part-time degree course?

A : I believe that the nursing profession should be upgraded. I need to improve and update myself for further career development. Continuing education is important, especially in the direction of specialty nursing.

Q : Why did you choose HKU?

A : The course offered by HKU is comprehensive. From holistic care to advanced nursing practice, the curriculum offers learning objectives from basic knowledge to critical thinking. I also believe that the expectation from HKU in terms of research is much higher than other universities. And personally, close proximity between HKU and Queen Mary Hospital where I work is most suitable for me to manage my time.

Q : Do you have any comments towards the part-time nursing course?

A : It seemed not very well structured in the beginning, and reference materials for nursing curriculum is insufficient. On the other hand, I think I did pursue a higher dimension of learning. We were equipped mainly with skills from the nursing school, while this programme made us realize that we were deficient in

knowledge on theories and the interrelationship between skills and knowledge. Teaching on biological science and research are areas which I find interesting and useful.

Q : Do you have problem-based learning (PBL)?

A : Unfortunately not. Perhaps time doesn't allow us to have this learning mode. Almost everyone of us has a full-time job, so it is difficult for us to spend time together for discussion and sharing.

Q : Now you have finished the 3 years degree course, how do you see yourself in the pursuit of the nursing profession?

A : I am very positive in the career prospect after the degree course. Throughout the three-year curriculum, I have been trained to apply theories into practice. I am more confident in my ability to think, analyse and perform systematically, objectively and independently, and to tackle any problems that may arise in the job.

Q : Do you have any recommendations for those who would like to consider doing the Nursing degree course?

A (Moon) : First, you must be clear that you are really interested in this profession. Secondly, you have to learn how to prioritize different tasks. Thirdly, you have to be serious throughout the learning process.

A (Vincent) : To supplement, I would like to add that one must not be afraid or grudging about extra tasks being assigned to oneself. Eventually the experience and knowledge one gains would be well worth the extra efforts.

Q : Do you have any suggestions for improvement on the nursing curriculum?

A (Moon) : The course could be better organized. Self-directed studies is an important component, and it would help if the tutor can advise on individual student's potential and assist in this development.

A (Vincent) : Regarding the part-time programme, I would suggest the course to include some PBL teaching which makes learning more fun. Student presentation should also be encouraged, especially for first year students. I sincerely hope nurses from Hong Kong can represent HK to play a significant role internationally in the profession. ☺

Dean's Message



Summer of 1999 sees the end of the second year of the New Medical Curriculum. I am happy to report that the medical students have done very well. Teachers in the Faculty as well as Honorary Teachers of the Faculty have worked very hard and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

Our external examiner for Year 1 is Sir Charles George who is the Chairman of the Education Committee of the General Medical Council. He has visited many medical schools undergoing education reform in the United Kingdom. He is most impressed by our achievements within such a short time, the quality of our medical students and the dedication and commitment of our Staff. There is no doubt in my mind that the Faculty has responded to the need of the Society and is in the fore-front of medical education. We change not for the sake of change. We change for the betterment of medical education and the medical profession.

The Faculty has been visited by a number of medical schools in China and in the region on the issue of medical curriculum reform. We are very pleased to share our experience and render our expertise. I am certain that our Faculty will be taking the lead in medical education in this region, as well as contributing to the international forum through our alliance with the Medical Faculties within Universitas 21 and the Harvard Medical School.

In this time of change, I would like to bring along not only medical students and staff of the Faculty, but also parents, alumni and the community. It is only through such concerted effort that we will be successful in achieving the goals of medical education. ☺

New Medical Complex Update

The "ground breaking" ceremony of the New Medical Complex and the foundation stone laying ceremony of The Hong Kong Jockey Club Clinical Research Centre were held on April 13, 1999 at the building site.

Officiating addresses were made by the Vice-Chancellor Professor YC Cheng and Steward of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Mr John CC Chan. There were cheque presentations from generous donors including Dr Douglas Laing, Dr Li Shu Pui and Ms Esther Suen (on behalf of the late Mr Suen Chi Sun). The Dean Professor Grace Tang, Chairlady of the New Medical Complex Project Group, honourable guests, architects, Heads of Departments and Faculty staff also joined the ceremony to mark this special occasion.

The University Grants Committee (UGC) has allocated HK\$1,128

million to fund the relocation of the pre-clinical complex while The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has donated HK\$270 million for the construction of the 7,200m² Clinical Research Centre. The University of Hong Kong, together with a number of generous donors, has committed so far HK\$90 million towards the project. The Faculty is yet to pledge donations of HK\$10 million to match the remaining balance. ☺



Ground breaking by (From left) Prof Grace Tang, Ms Esther Suen, Dr Li Shu Pui, Mr John Chan, Prof YC Cheng, Dr Douglas Laing, Prof Vivian Chan

Exciting News

International Research Programme on Traditional Chinese and Natural Medicine



Nutraceuticals and herbal medicine are among the fastest growing industries in the world but they face serious problems not only in Hong Kong but worldwide. The University of Hong Kong, through the International Research Programme on Traditional Chinese and Natural Medicine and its joint venture company, ChemBioPrint - Asia Ltd, embarks on solving these problems such as safety, effectiveness, and especially standardization. ChemBioPrint™ technology, the central platform for the international programme, and the joint venture company can provide solutions to these problems. It is believed that these solutions will have a significant impact on the development of Hong Kong as an international centre of nutraceuticals and traditional Chinese medicine.

This extensive programme requires expertise and facilities not found in


any single institution in the world. In this programme, international participants provide such complementary expertise and facilities. The University of Hong Kong plays the central organizational role to lead all participants to work, in concerted effort, on a common platform in achieving the above features.

The presidents of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Chinese Pharmacological Society, CV Technologies Inc, the University of Hong Kong and National Research Institute of Chinese Medicine, Taiwan attended the Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum for Collaboration on June 14, 1999. The Memorandum of Understanding represents a strong united vote of confidence from key institutions in traditional Chinese and natural medicine research. It also marks the commitment to support the efforts of the University of Hong Kong. In this ceremony, the establishment of a technology transfer company, ChemBioPrint - Asia Ltd., was also announced by the University of Hong Kong and CV Technologies Inc. This company will develop research and secure clinical results into marketable nutraceuticals and pharmaceutical products for local and international markets. ☺

Press Stop

We are pleased to report that the admission grades for both MBBS and Nursing curricula reached a higher level for 1999/2000. The average score for MBBS admissions are 3As, and for BNursing one grade better than last year.

Research Grant Council — Competitive Earmarked Research Grant (CERG) for 1999-2000


The Research Grant Council announced its decision on the CERG exercise for 1999-2000 on July 2, 1999. For the third consecutive year, the University has obtained the largest single share (\$82M) of the total available funding (\$324.5M). The Faculty of Medicine has the largest number of successfully funded projects (39) and the largest share of total funding (\$31.3M) among all Faculties in HKU. Two of the funded projects from Professor SK Lam and Professor JCY Leong were rated as Outstanding Projects. 

List of Projects in the Faculty of Medicine Supported by RGC

Project Title	Principal Investigator	Funds Awarded (HK\$)
Chemoprevention of gastric cancer by treatment of <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> infection	Professor S.K. Lam	2,175,800
Aberrant promoter hypermethylation of growth regulatory genes in cancers of the gastro-intestinal tract	Dr. S.Y. Leung	580,000
Induction of apoptosis by selective protein kinase C-Beta and cyclooxygenase-2 inhibition: novel target for gastric cancer treatment	Dr. B.C.Y. Wong	709,500
The role of voltage-gated Na ⁺ channels in central neurons during hypoxia	Dr. M.L. Fung	647,900
A cross-cultural investigation of cognitive and interpersonal risk factors for depressive mood and suicide ideation	Dr. S.M. Stewart	532,400
Re-implantation of ventral root following spinal root avulsion - a new microsurgical technique for regeneration of injured motoneurons	Dr. W.T. Wu	993,300
Role of HPV infection in human esophageal squamous cell carcinoma	Dr. A.L.M. Cheung	845,600
Molecular study of core protein in Hepatitis C virus pathogenesis	Dr. N.N.T. Chen	550,000
Analysis of novel gene encoding for a secreted molecule that is specifically expressed in proliferating exocrine gland epithelial cells and their associated cancers	Dr. L. Cao	1,099,840
The mechanism of binding of IgA to mesangial cells - the pivotal issue of the pathogenesis of IgA nephropathy	Professor K.N. Lai	709,500
Melatonin signalling in the regulation of human choriocarcinoma cell growth	Dr. S.Y.W. Shiu	983,760
Identification and characterization of heterologous promoters which deregulate the expression of BCL-6 oncogene in gastric high-grade lymphoma of MALT-type	Dr. G. Srivastava	824,320
Interactions between avian influenza A H5N1 virus and macrophages: a basis for immuno-pathology	Dr. J.S.M. Peiris	935,000
Binding of anti-DNA immunoglobulins from patients with lupus nephritis to human proximal renal tubular epithelial cells (HPTC) and their effects on HPTC expression of RANTES, MCP-1, TGF-Beta1, and C3	Dr. D.T.M. Chan	709,500
The role of the pineal gland in the causation of scoliosis: a bipedal rhesus monkey model	Professor J.C.Y. Leong	921,150
Transgenic mouse models for studying the role of the mouse Sox10 gene in enteric nervous system development	Dr. M.H. Sham	775,500
The role of stromal smooth muscle-epithelial interactions in sex hormone-induced prostate carcinogenesis	Professor Y.C. Wong	709,500
A study on the spermatozoa-zona pellucida binding inhibitory glycoproteins of human follicular fluid	Dr. W.S.B. Yeung	709,500
A study of the angiogenesis pathway in primary carcinoma of the lung	Dr. M.P. Wong	709,500
Metabolic consequences and alteration of the hypothalamic-pituitary-IGF-I axis in nutritionally perturbed rat pups	Dr. H.P. Sheng	709,500
Delayed cardioprotection of preconditioning with ischaemia and k-opioid: Ca ²⁺ homeostasis, signal transduction and clinical implications	Professor T.M. Wong	709,500
Human papillomavirus (HPV) typing in primary and secondary cervical cancer screening in the women of Hong Kong using polymerase chain reaction technique and hybrid capture assay	Dr. K.L. Liu	580,000
Modulation of voltage-dependent calcium entry during muscarinic stimulation in airway smooth muscle	Dr. J.P. Bourreau	577,500
Molecular analysis of PIN-1, a novel PDZ-domain interactor of the basic helix-loop-helix transcription factor E12	Dr. K.M. Yao	580,000
Crystal structure of human leukocyte integrin CD18	Dr. J.M.C. Luk	580,000
Neutrophil-mediated degradation of bronchio-alveolar proteoglycans	Dr. D.K.Y. Shum	709,500
Protection of coronary endothelium-smooth muscle function during cardiac surgery	Professor G.W. He	991,047
A prospective randomized controlled trial on neoadjuvant regional chemotherapy for gastric cancer	Professor J. Wong	890,744
The cellular and molecular mechanisms of how p75 low affinity neurotrophin receptor mediates neural cell death in neonatal hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy	Dr. P.T. Cheung	709,500
Shear properties of the lumbar spine and their relationship to instability	Dr. A.D. Holmes	709,500
Mechanism of leukaemic transformation by fusion genes	Professor L.C. Chan	1,255,520
Molecular genetic dissection of the function of ubiquitously expressed kinesin and its interaction with myosin VA	Dr. J.D. Huang	775,500
The molecular basis of increased bone formation in transgenic mice expressing mutant collagen X	Dr. K.M.C. Cheung	580,000
Angiotensin-converting enzyme, bradykinin and endothelial function	Dr. B.M.Y. Cheung	597,880
Hypertrophic-cartilage matrix remodeling in endochondral bone formation and growth: significance of collagen X turnover/homeostasis	Dr. D. Chan	580,000
The role of cell adhesion molecule in persistent neutrophil recruitment in bronchiectasis and in-vitro evaluation of modulating effect of therapeutic agents	Professor M.S.M. Ip	580,000
Molecular and developmental characterisation of inner ear abnormalities in the novel transgenic mouse mutant, yellow submarine (ysb)	Professor K.S.E. Cheah	1,744,960
Methods to verify, classify and analyse sequence families	Dr. D.K. Smith	580,000
Regulation of renal macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) expression: mechanism of MIF in renal immune injury	Dr. H.Y. Lan	775,500

Donations

The Suen Chi Sun Charitable Foundation has donated a total of HK\$2,832,215 in support of the following purposes:

- (1) Laboratory for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Cancer Research by Professor J Sham (HK\$900,000)
- (2) Postgraduate students for TCM Cancer Research by Professor J Sham (HK\$1,000,000)
- (3) TCM in the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer by Dr K Tsang of Department of Medicine (HK\$932,215) 

Recent Events

Anatomy & Biochemistry Joint Research Retreat



The Department of Anatomy and Biochemistry at HKU hosted a joint Research Postgraduate Retreat, which was attended by participants from their sister departments at the University of Cambridge, UK on June 28 and 29, 1999. A total of 70

people took part in this research interchange, including 2 academic staff (Dr Anne Ferguson-Smith from Anatomy and Dr Shy Arkin from Biochemistry) and 5 postgraduate students from Cambridge.

The Retreat began with a day at the Kadoorie Agricultural Research Centre at Shek Kong. The opening ceremony was officiated by Professor Howell Tong, Dean of Graduate School. The programme consisted of plenary lectures, oral & poster presentations from postgraduate students of the four departments, and group discussions during which students and staff interact and learn about research, academy and culture of the two universities. The visiting participants had the opportunity of touring our research laboratories, and they were most impressed with our advanced equipment set-up.

Feedback from all participants was excellent, the students enjoyed and learned many things from this retreat. To continue this meaningful exchange, discussions are underway for the University of Cambridge to host a Joint Graduate Student Retreat in Cambridge in summer 2000.

The organizers are grateful to sponsorships received from the British Council (HK), the Graduate School and the Faculty of Medicine at HKU.

Jardine House Walk Up 1999



Prof KN Lai accepting the donation on behalf of the Department from Jardine

The Department of Medicine was the beneficiary of this year's annual Jardine House walk up on 25 April 1999 in which HK\$300,000 was raised to aid research for the prevention and effective treatment of kidney failure. Members of the public as well as doctors, nurse and former renal patients from the Queen Mary Hospital all joined in the walk to the top of Jardine House in relay teams and individual races. After the formalities were completed, over 300 people joined in, in a

leisurely mass walk up to the top to round off the day's event. Donation in excess of the pledge commitment will go towards building a school in Hunan, China.

Dean's Tea Reception



The Dean hosted a tea reception on June 4, 1999 for 98/99 MBBS I students and their parents. More than 60 parents and students attended the reception. The purpose of the function was to enhance the parent-teacher relationship and to establish an effective communication channel

between parents and the Faculty. The Dean and the parents exchanged views concerning the medical curriculum and discussed issues related to postgraduate education and training for their children as well their career prospects. The function also provided an opportunity for the Faculty to collect valuable feedback from the parents and to answer their queries on the new medical curriculum. Since the reception had a favourable response, the Faculty will organize similar functions for the Dean to meet with students in other years and their parents.

The 2nd Asia Pacific Cardiovascular Stenting Symposium and Live Demonstration Course (APCSS), 25-27 July



The 2nd APCSS, organized by the Department of Medicine was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre with live stenting procedures performed at the Queen Mary Hospital. Delegates were able to view world leading interventional cardiologists perform the latest stenting procedures from the Convention Center. Following the very successful APCSS in 1997, with wide feedback describing it as "the best live angioplasty meeting", this year's meeting was well attended by over 450 delegates from around the world. This year, Course Director A/Professor David Ho has put together an even bigger International Faculty, consisting of over 30 of the world's best interventional cardiologists and interventional radiologists. Over 20 complex angioplasty and stenting procedures were performed over 2 full days of live demonstration, including endovascular reconstruction of coronary, renal, subclavian, femoral, iliac, vertebral and carotid arteries. The highlight of the programme was the relaxing and casual Gala Dinner at the Peak, with spectacular night views of Hong Kong.

Medical Faculty Skills Laboratory.



The Medical Faculty Skills Laboratory recently acquired 3 virtual reality simulators called Cath Sim. These trainers allow students to practise their skills of intravenous line insertion without the need for live models. The units provide realistic training scenarios for line insertion and give a written feedback and score to the student with the ability

for "instant replay". These units will be available by the beginning of the forthcoming academic year for students to use in their curriculum. Further additions to the laboratory are planned to make it one of the leading medical student clinical skills laboratories in Asia.

Research Grant Council (RGC) Visit



The Research Grant Council visit to the University took place successfully on June 24 and 25, 1999, amidst congratulatory and encouraging messages to staff. The twenty-one members of the Biology and Medicine Panel who toured the Faculty during the two-day, tightly packed visit expressed very favourable comments about the high standard of the posters on display, and about the wide range of research being undertaken. The visit to the Faculty began with an impressive array of posters put up at Wei Lun Hall by Areas and Centres of Excellence as well as non-laboratory based departments. Tours of laboratory based basic science departments and departments at the QMH Pathology building followed closely. The next day, Panel members moved on to the remaining clinical departments and the Institute of Molecular Biology.

The Faculty put up a total of 204 posters which represented almost one-third of the total number of posters put up by the University. Twenty-four outstanding projects were featured at the Central Display at Loke Yew Hall along with other cutting edge research projects of the University, for viewing by the RGC plenary group, the HKSAR Legislative Council, and the University Council.

Alumni Update

Comments on Harvard Consultancy Report

The Executive Committee of the University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association conducted among members a survey on the Harvard Consultancy Report, "Improving Hong Kong's Health Care System: Why and for Whom?" Comments were compiled and submitted to the Government in August 1999. Summary of the comments is as follows:

It was agreed that: (1) The quality of health care is variable though not more so than many other developed countries. (2) The long-term financial sustainability of the current health care system is questionable. (3) The Hong Kong health care system is somewhat compartmentalized and need integration between primary and tertiary care, public and private sectors, for the provision of better service. (4) Development of Family Medicine should be promoted. (5) Those who can afford to pay for health care should pay.

On other issues relating to professionalism and financing of health care systems, the following opinions were made:

(1) It was disagreed that the problem lies in the privilege enjoyed by the medical profession to self-regulate without interference, and inadequate oversight from external organization. Certainly the leaders of organized medicine in Hong Kong are not dominated by graduates of one medical school: 40% of local practitioners are graduates from outside Hong Kong.

(2) The statement of "Little Checks and Balance" among the health professionals and that doctors do not have the right to file a complaint against another doctor are simply not true. Patients can complain freely to hospitals, to the Medical Council and to Consumer's Council. Doctors can certainly launch a complaint against another doctor if malpractice is being observed.

(3) To set up an Institute for Health Policy and Economics for conducting objective and rational analyses and to monitor the system's performance would incur unnecessary expenditure and additional bureaucracy.

(4) Health care complaints are best dealt with by the Medical Council, not an independent ombudsman office.

(5) There are alternatives to solving the unsustainable financial problem in the long term other than establishing a Health Security Plan (HSP) and Savings Accounts for Long Term (MEDISAGE). Options to be considered such as (i) capping the Government Budget on Health, (ii) raising user fees for those who can afford to pay, and (iii) providing incentives to encourage the purchase of voluntary medical insurance.

(6) The idea of raising user fees by itself does little to address the objectives of improving quality and efficiency, and the health care system will continue to be compartmentalized. Concurrent steps to be taken include: (i) strengthen primary health care, (ii) promote public education on health issues, (iii) promote integration of primary, secondary and tertiary care, (iv) promote better communication between the public and the private sectors.

It is unclear how the introduction of the HSP with "money following patients" could help better targeting of government subsidies to preventive and rehabilitation services. It does not really address the issue of promoting primary health care especially health education.

It is claimed that "money following patients" would lay the foundation for fair competition between public and private sector providers – but how can it improve on the issue of compartmentalization?

(7) Potential problems are identified with the introduction of HSP and MEDISAGE: (i) administrative cost would be very high,

(ii) "money following patient" would stimulate a lot of competition which would result in a specialist held service. This may pose difficulty for trainees to build up their experience and receive adequate training, (iii) there could be possibility of unhealthy competition between the 18 regions, in particular unnecessary duplication of services in these 18 regional Health Integrated Systems.

(8) Further suggestions were made to improve on the local health care system: (i) increase opportunities for training and implementation of compulsory Continuing Medical Education for primary care doctors, (ii) set up indicator fee schedules as guidelines for general public, and (3) introduce quality assurance in private hospitals.

Meeting Graduates in Sydney

With short notice, Dr Wong Chiu Lung kindly hosted a dinner for Professor JCY Leong to meet medical (and one non-medical) graduates in Sydney in June 1999. There are about 100 medical alumni in the New South Wales area who are keen to know more updated information about Hong Kong, such as medical issues/policies, development in Alma Mater, alumni's information, etc. They also welcome alumni to visit them via contact with chairman Dr Wilson Ip or the secretary Dr H Tim Chung (e-mail: tchung@acsoft.com.au).



Back row from left: Dr Poon Kai Ming, Dr Ho Yiu Key, Dr Lee Yuk Kai, Dr Woo Kwok Choi, Dr Chung H Tim, Dr Lee Kai Man, Dr Kwok Chiu Wah, Dr Kwok Chi Tack, Dr Tam Hin Cheung, Mr Ho Chi Shing (Engineering)
Front row from left: Dr Chung Chak Man, Dr Chung Mei Ling, Dr Ip Wai Sang, Prof & Mrs JCY Leong, Dr Wong Chiu Lung, Dr KK Sun

Library Cards

For the convenience of our alumni who intend to use the HKU libraries, HKUMAA, with the kind assistance of the Dean's office, offer to streamline the application procedure of library cards by mail. If you wish to obtain one, please:

(1) inform the Faculty Office (c/o Miss Diana Liu) by fax at 2974 0678 or e-mail at dmwliu@hkucc.hku.hk with your full name, year of graduation, telephone number and address. An application form will be sent to your given address;

(2) attach one recent photo with name on the back, a *cheque of HK\$500, being the refundable deposit, made payable to "The University of Hong Kong" and a separate cheque of HK\$35, being the cost-recovery fee, made payable to "The University of Hong Kong" with the completed application form and send to the Faculty of Medicine, 1/F., Patrick Manson Building, North Wing, 7 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong.

(3) A library card will be sent to you by mail in 3-4 weeks. ☺

**If you are a Bank of East Asia Credit Card holder, the \$500 deposit is waived. However, application has to be done in person as applicant needs to sign a bank agreement form for use of the credit card.*

Congratulations to...

Professor AJ Hedley, Head, Department of Community Medicine, for being awarded a World Health Organization (WHO) medal and citation for tobacco control work. This award acknowledges the combination of science and advocacy that Professor Hedley has brought to the University of Hong Kong over the last 11 years which made Hong Kong a leader in the field of tobacco control.

Professor JCY Leong, Head, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, for being elected President-Elect to assume Presidency from 2002-2005 of the Societe Internationale De Chirurgie Orthopedique Et De Traumatologie (SICOT). Among the 103 member nations of this 70-year-old international

Hello & Goodbye

Welcome to the Faculty !!

Dr Gabriel Matthew Leung, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine: I was originally born in Hong Kong, went to the UK for secondary education, then to Canada where I completed my medical degree at the University of Western Ontario. Having trained and worked in Toronto in the field of family medicine, I decided to take a population approach to the practice of medicine, which brought me to Harvard School of Public Health to pursue postgraduate work in health policy and management. My interest areas include health policy, health care management, evidence-based medicine, and continuous quality improvement in health care.

Dr Anskar Y H Leung *BMedSc, PhD, MBChB (Hons), MRCP(UK)*
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine: I received both

organization, there are only 2 previous occasions that the presidents had originated from Asia.

Professor Mary Ip, Department of Medicine, for being awarded the University Teaching Fellowship 98-99 in recognition of her excellence as a teacher.

Miss ASY Chan, M.Phil student of Dr SY Leung, Department of Pathology, for being awarded (USD2,000) the 1999 AACR-ITO-EN Ltd. Young Investigator Award. The awards are presented to young scientists from Asia who are presenters of abstracts that have been highly rated by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting Program Committee.

undergraduate and PhD training in Hong Kong and joined the Department of Medicine in Queen Mary Hospital as medical officer in 1997. Currently, I am working in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit and studying the complications of BMT recipients. As a teacher, I was impressed by some medical students who have shown their willingness to learn and their interest in clinical medicine. Some of them, however, are too shy to present themselves and ask questions. I hope that I can help medical students in their academic pursuit.

Goodbye & Best Wishes!!

End of Contract:

Dr P Adab, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine

Resigned:

Dr P Dickens, Senior Lecturer, Head, Department of Pathology

Forthcoming Events

CARE Inaugural Scientific Meeting

Date : September 17 - 19, 1999
Venue : Furama Hotel, Hong Kong
Information : Mrs Denise Tung, Symposium Co-ordinator
Department of Medicine, 4/F, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital
Tel: 2855 4607 Fax: 2816 2863

Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS®)

Training Courses for providers, instructors, and students
Date : September - December 1999
Venue : Skills Development Centre
University of Hong Kong Medical Centre, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Program Manager, Skills Development Centre
University of Hong Kong Medical Centre, Queen Mary Hospital
Tel: 2855 4854 / 4886 Fax: 2819 3416

Symposium on Statistical Issues Encountered in Clinical Trials

Date : September 11, 1999 (Saturday)
Venue : Doctor's Common Room, 2/F, Block K, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Ms Josephine Yuen, Clinical Trials Centre
Estates Building, 10 Sassoon Road, Hong Kong
Tel: 2819 2882 Fax: 2974 1248

Cardiology Forum

Date : October 1 - 3, 1999 (Fri. to Sun.)
Venue : Osaka, Japan
Information : Professor CP Lau / Dr K Lee
Institute of Cardiovascular Science & Medicine, c/o Department of Medicine
4/F, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Tel: 2855 3633 E-mail: kllflee@hku.hk

Annual Physiology Symposium

Date : October 14 - 16, 1999 (Thur. to Sat.)
Venue : Department of Physiology, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan
Information : Professor SF Pang, Department of Physiology
Li Shu Fan Building, 5 Sassoon Road, Hong Kong
Tel: 2819 9262

International Meeting on "Receptor & Non-receptor Mediated Actions of Melatonin"

Date : November 6 - 10, 1999 (Sat. to Wed.)
Venue : Dept of Physiology, The University of Hong Kong
Information : Dr SYW Shiu, Department of Physiology
Li Shu Fan Building, 5 Sassoon Road, Hong Kong
Tel: 2819 9190

The Second Workshop on Assisted Reproduction Technology

Date : November 24 - 28, 1999 (Wed. to Sun.)
Venue : Queen Mary Hospital
Information : Dr WSB Yeung / Ms Kathy Chang
Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Medicine, HKU
6/F, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital
Tel: 2855 4517 / 2855 2647 Fax: 2855 0947

2nd Symposium of World Association of Chinese Epileptologists (WACE)

Date : December 4 - 5, 1999 (Sat. to Sun.)
Venue : Great Eagle Hotel
Information : Professor Virginia Wong, Department of Paediatrics
1/F, New Clinical Building, Queen Mary Hospital
Tel: 2855 4206 E-mail: vcnwong@hkucc.hku.hk

Asia-Pacific Conference on Problem-based Learning

Date : December 9 - 11, 1999 (Thurs. - Sat.)
Venue : Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Information : Conference Secretariat, Unit A, 3/F, Eron Building
288 Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong
Tel: 2559 9973 Fax: 2547 9528 Email: icc@asiaonline.net

Symposium on Future Demand of Clinical Trials Nurses

Date : December 11, 1999 (Saturday)
Venue : To be confirmed
Information : Ms Josephine Yuen, Clinical Trials Centre
Estates Building, 10 Sassoon Road, Hong Kong
Tel: 2819 2882 Fax: 2974 1248

From the Editor:

The Medical Faculty Newsletter has entered its fourth year of publication. With the many new exciting developments in the Faculty, the Editorial Board has been implementing new features in the newsletter to keep our readers informed and in touch. Starting in the April 99 issue, we have embarked on a series of feature articles which give an inside look of the current development in various disciplines in the Faculty of Medicine. In this issue, we are bringing you the Department of Nursing which may be very new to many of our readers.

We are also providing a short self-introduction of newcomers who join the team of teachers and researchers in the Faculty. We hope this will serve as a stepping stone to fostering a greater sense of comradeship among staff.

Your views and opinions on further ways to improve the newsletter are always appreciated.

Editorial Board :

Professor Mary Ip (Editor)
Professor LCK Low

Professor CH Cho
Professor PL Sullivan

Dr CM Lo
Dr HP Sheng

Dr JM Nicholls
Dr CM Wong

Editorial Assistant :

Miss Diana Liu

Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

December 1999

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch and up to date.

Volume 4 Issue 3

Spotlight on Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology



Departmental photo with Professor A Templeton, the 18th Aw Boon Haw Visiting Professor (1998).

Although teaching in Obstetrics and Gynaecology was conducted even in the early days of the Faculty of Medicine, the first Chair in Obstetrics and Gynaecology was established only in 1923. This was funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1925, Professor RE Tottenham was appointed as the first Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. When he arrived in Hong Kong in 1926, the teaching activities in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology were transferred from Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital to Tsan Yuk Hospital. When Queen Mary Hospital was opened in 1937, teaching of Gynaecology was transferred there while teaching of obstetrics remained at Tsan Yuk Hospital. This arrangement remains till now.

The academic staff in the Department currently consists of 1 Chair Professor, 3 Professors, 3 Associate Professors, 8 Assistant Professors and 1 Research Assistant Professor. There are 2 research officers. The academic staff work closely together with the Hospital Authority staff in the Department. A number of specialists working in other hospitals have also been appointed Honorary Clinical Lecturers to teach the medical students in other hospitals. Teaching and training of medical students are conducted primarily at Queen Mary and Tsan Yuk Hospitals which are about 4 km apart. Outpatient teaching is also undertaken in Sai Ying Pun Jockey Club Specialist Clinic, Tang Chi Ngong Specialist Clinic, Kwong Wah, Queen Elizabeth and Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospitals as well as the Hong Kong Family Planning Association.

The Department considers undergraduate teaching as its most important mission. The Department aims to produce graduates who are life long learners. In 1993, before the Faculty embarked on the new medical curriculum, the Department undertook a number of initiatives in reforming the undergraduate teaching in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The number of lectures was reduced by more than 60%. Small group discussion sessions on selected topics were introduced. Community-based teaching was also introduced. The Department is the first department in our Faculty to use OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) in the assessment of students. The Department also introduced an end-of-clerkship clinical

competency assessment during which the students are observed and assessed in the process of history taking. Last year, theme cases were introduced. In these sessions, the students have to work through a number of clinical cases under guidance of the tutors. These active learning activities were well received and rated highly by the students. Sessions on communication skills were also implemented. In line with the new medical curriculum, the Department plans to introduce problem-based learning in the wards and clinics next year. The use of continuous assessment in clinical skills will also be evaluated to see whether it can replace the clinical skill competency assessment at end of clerkship or Final MBBS examination.

Research is concentrated in three main areas: gynaecological oncology, reproductive medicine and maternal fetal medicine. The oncology division is well known for its work in gestational trophoblastic disease. In the recent few years, the oncology division has placed an increasing emphasis on research in molecular aspects of gynaecological cancers, in addition to various clinical trials on treatment. The reproductive division is well known internationally for its pioneering work on emergency contraception, use of mifepristone and misoprostol for fertility regulation and interaction between gametes and female genital tract. There is active collaboration with the World Health Organization, Contraception Development Network and many centres in mainland China. The division of maternal fetal medicine is the first group in the world to report on the use of ultrasound in early diagnosis of alpha-thalassaemia major. Biochemical and ultrasonographic screening for fetal aneuploidies and research on gestational diabetes are other major areas of research in



Dr Zuo Le-wen (President, the Maternal and Neonatal Hospital of Guangzhou)(third from left), Professor PC Ho (Head, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology) and Professor GWK Tang (Dean, Faculty of Medicine) attended the signing ceremony of a joint project on Screening for Down's Syndrome and Ultrasono-graphic Diagnosis of Alpha Thalassaemia with the Maternal and Child Health Hospital of Guangzhou.

What's Inside

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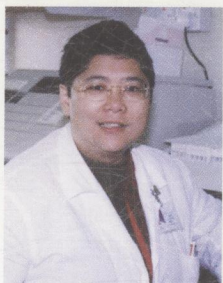
maternal fetal medicine. The Department believes that it is important to have good laboratory-based research in addition to clinical trials, and 4 PhDs with expertise in molecular biology have been recruited in the last three years. In line with the research directions of the Faculty, there will be more work related to genome research.

Together with Hospital Authority staff, the academic staff provides clinical service at Queen Mary Hospital and Tsan Yuk Maternity Hospital. Besides general gynaecologic and obstetric service, the Department also provides a territory wide tertiary referral service for gynaecological oncology, reproductive medicine, complicated obstetric and gynaecological problems, and prenatal diagnosis. The Department takes a leading role in the development of subspecialty training in Hong Kong. It is the only training unit in Hong Kong which is recognised by the Royal College of Obstetricians and

Gynaecologists for subspecialty training in Reproductive Medicine and Gynaecological Oncology, and it is working on subspecialty training in maternal fetal medicine. Postgraduate courses in new techniques and recent trends in Obstetrics and Gynaecology are held regularly for private practitioners and the resident staff of consultant units from the whole of Hong Kong. The Department has also helped in the training of doctors and scientists in mainland China.

In order to improve the quality of the obstetric service and to increase the cost-effectiveness, the obstetrics inpatient service will be moved to Queen Mary Hospital. The Tsan Yuk Hospital will become an ambulatory centre. This will mark a new era for the Department. Through this re-organization, the Department hopes to provide a better service to patients as well as to improve teaching and research in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the next century. ☺

Interview with Professor Hextan YS Ngan (顏婉嫦)



Q: What is your research interest?

A: My specialty is oncology and I have been working on gestational trophoblastic disease. Since it is a common disease in the South East Asia when compared with overseas countries, we have gained much international recognition. I also work on clinical and molecular research.

Q: What is the major gynaecological cancer in Hong Kong? What are the advances in treatment?

A: The most common gynaecological cancer in Hong Kong is cervical cancer, apart from breast cancer which falls under the category of surgery. We have done a large number of clinical trials on treatment in lower genital tract cancer. After eight years of work, we have demonstrated definitively that combination radio-chemo-therapy works better than radiotherapy alone in cervical cancer. However, although radio-chemotherapy is effective, cervical cancer should be controlled by preventive screening. Unfortunately, screening is not popular in Hong Kong.

Q: How common are lower genital tract cancers in Hong Kong?

A: Among all cancer types, cervical cancer ranks the 6th and ovarian cancer ranks the 10th in terms of mortality.

Q: What is the trend in the incidence in gynaecological cancers in Hong Kong?

A: The incidence of cervical cancer has decreased in the last 10-20 years. This is likely to be due to changes in socio-economic status rather than through proper screening. This trend seems to have plateaued in recent years.

Interview with Dr YH Lam (林勇行)



Q: How long have you been working in Tsan Yuk Hospital? What about pre-natal diagnosis?

A: I began working in Tsan Yuk Hospital in 1990. The pre-natal diagnosis centre, the first such unit in Hong Kong, was started in the 1980s by Dr Mary Tang (唐海燕), Professor

Ma Ho-kei, Professor Vivian Chan (陳立怡) and Dr A Ghosh.

Q: What impact has your unit on other similar units in Hong Kong?

A: Our unit was the only one that provided training in pre-natal diagnosis in the early 1980's. These earlier trained doctors then spread out to establish pre-natal diagnosis units in other hospitals. Our present cases emphasis has shifted more to non-invasive diagnosis and fetal therapy.

Q: What is the development in non-invasive diagnosis?

A: Ultrasound. Through the use of higher resolution ultrasound

Q: You mentioned twice about proper screening. Why?

A: Proper screening can detect cancer in early stage which is the best control measure. In Hong Kong, people do not actively go for screening purpose alone, and the government has not properly organised regular screening for the general public.

Q: What do you mean by organised screening?

A: Screening programmes which keep a proper record of the individual and remind her to return for follow up screening. At present, the government only offers opportunistic screening in gynaecological centres and the number of dedicated screening centres available is limited.

Q: Can you do anything about promoting screening?

A: I think it is more appropriate for the Department of Health to do this. Our role is to provide further healthcare measures if the screening shows problems. For instance, our Women Diagnostic Treatment Centre in Tsan Yuk Hospital serves to provide a friendly environment for those whose screening results are abnormal. Our nurses are also trained to be counselors. We have just introduced psycho-social intervention, in line with the global trend. A randomised clinical trial in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry is going on.

Q: What changes have occurred in the Department since Professor Ma Ho-kei (馬可璣) left?

A: The overall approach is different. Professor Ma was very straight forward and went straight to the point/person when she spotted a problem. As the culture changes, Professor Ho tends to use a softer approach. In general, we follow the track Professor Ma has laid down in terms of training and education. Indeed, we now face rising expectations on all fronts. ☺

probes, we are now able to diagnose certain hereditary disorders and congenital structural abnormalities such as thalassaemia and anencephaly at as early as 12 weeks gestation. This ultrasound application is world-class and has been developed in our unit. We are also engaged in prenatal diagnosis through analysis of fetal cells and DNA.

Q: What will be the trend?

A: Earlier pre-natal treatment. For example, we are conducting research in stem cell transplantation for thalassaemia and we have been successful with minor fetal surgery and fetal blood transfusion.

Q: Much ethical issues are involved in pre-natal diagnosis, what is your opinion?

A: I think it is important that we abide with the local law. It is also important that we realise that our role is to provide advice and choices to parents and that we should let parents decide the best treatment rather than making subjective suggestions. ☺

Interview with Professor PC Ho (何柏松)
(Head and Chief of Service of Department)



Q: *You mentioned that teaching is the most important mission of the Department, and being the pioneer department in small group problem-based teaching, what do you think is the most important element that makes teaching successful?*

A: It is most important that the teaching enhances self directed learning. One such example is the use of theme-cases. Students are left alone for a short period, with books and other reference materials, to explore a theme built on different case scenarios, before the tutor discusses with them. Since students are actively involved in solving the issues surrounding the cases, they learn and remember better. A student has commented that he found it easier to learn with theme-cases while usually, he would only study to remember the facts before the examination. I think this change of learning attitude is very positive.

Q: *What made you start small group teaching?*

A: In 1993, during the Deanship of Professor Ma Ho-kei (馬可熾), Faculty members discussed the introduction of problem-based learning (PBL) and our department felt it was a positive move and took the lead to launch it.

Q: *The Faculty has started the new curriculum, how would your Department help to improve the curriculum?*

A: We should continue to explore new methods of teaching that encourage self learning. For example, we are currently exploring web-based teaching. We will also start PBL at bedside next year with existing old curriculum MBBS students.

Q: *What are your research interests?*

A: My main research area is on reproductive medicine - fertility regulation and infertility treatment. In Hong Kong, we were the first to perform sperm injection to facilitate fertilisation. We are developing pre-implantation genetic diagnosis and results are expected some time this year. The next target is to study endometrial receptivity in patients with infertility, and the effects of pharmacologic modulation, such as aspirin. The second main research is fertility regulation and our team is well-known for emergency contraception. In 1999, WHO confirmed our study on Levonorgestrel which we have proved to be more effective with less side effects than the standard method of emergency contraception. We are exploring other new regimens of emergency contraception and termination of pregnancy.

Q: *The maternity unit from Tsan Yuk Hospital will move to Queen Mary Hospital soon, what is the reason behind it?*

A: Although Tsan Yuk Hospital has been our main district maternity hospital, it is rather isolated from other services. If an obstetric patient has other medical or surgical problems, she has to be transferred to Queen Mary Hospital for further management. Transportation of a critically ill patient is undesirable. Therefore moving the obstetrics unit would provide a better and more cost-effective service to the community. Our staff feel sad about this change as there is a lot of emotional attachment to the Tsan Yuk Hospital, but the move is necessary from a medical point of view.

Q: *What would you regard as major historical changes in O&G?*

A: At the beginning, emphasis was on obstetrics. As delivery rate drops over the years, the emphasis has gradually moved to gynaecology with development of sub-specialisation. Although the trend has shifted, I strongly believe that teaching on obstetrics is necessary for students. Preventive treatment such as healthcare screening and menopause management has also taken a more important role. In terms of research, laboratory research has become as important as clinical research.

Q: *Professor Ma Ho-kei taught in the department for more than twenty years. Did you have any inspiration from her?*

A: Of course. One of her strongest assets was that she was never satisfied with the second best. Her expectation on staff performance was very high. Although she appeared to be very tough, she was unbelievably kind in her heart. She was very nice to patients and this has become the culture of the Department. ☺

Interview with Dr William SB Yeung (楊樹標)

Q: *Are you a basic scientist?*

A: I consider myself a marginal staff who works on both basic and applied research.

Q: *What is your major research area?*

A: Assisted reproduction - the relationship between the fallopian tube, sperm and embryo.

Q: *What are your major findings?*

A: Traditionally, it is believed that the only function of the fallopian tube is to serve as a channel for the ovum to reach the uterus. However, we have found that certain glycoprotein secreted by the fallopian tube is beneficial to embryo development. By purifying this glycoprotein, we hope to be able to supply glycoprotein to improve embryo development. We have also found another glycoprotein in the follicular fluid that inhibits the fusion of a spermatozoon and an ovum. By understanding the receptive relationship, we may be able to identify a new contraceptive method.

Q: *Does the new MBBS curriculum affect your teaching?*

A: Of course. I used to teach two revision classes a year for undergraduates and spend more time in postgraduate teaching. The workload required of PBL teaching now is definitely heavier. From big group lectures to small group tutorials, from being a lecturer to a facilitator, from O&G to a wide variety of topics, I encountered some difficulties at the beginning although I am getting used to all these now. I consider class preparation one of the most important tasks in the new curriculum. ☺



Interview with Dr Terence TH Lao (勞子偉)



Q: *What is your opinion on the major changes in obstetrics?*

A: There are three major changes: (1) with decreased birth rate, parents are now more anxious with their pregnancy; (2) due to growing affluence of the society, people tend to delay their delivery age; (3) with advancement in information technology, people are now able to access knowledge readily. Consequently, their expectation is increased and this poses new challenges to doctors. These changes have great impacts to obstetricians in terms of teaching and research.

Q: *What are the impacts then?*

A: They can be divided into three areas: (1) it is now difficult to recruit research patients, especially on interventional aspects; (2) since obstetrics research is scarce, people tend to see obstetrics as an anecdotal subject rather than one that is evidence based; (3) with increased means in prenatal diagnosis, fetal monitoring and patient knowledge, ethical issues are on the rise.

Q: *How do you handle these difficulties, such as clinical trials?*

A: Ethics approval in clinical studies on pregnant patients is especially difficult. We often have to join overseas multi-centre studies rather than conduct our own.

Q: *What is the age of late delivery recently? What is the trend?*

A: We classify pregnancy at the age of 35 years or above as late delivery. According to our statistics, more women now give birth over the age of 35 years. This trend will continue.

Q: *What is your role as an obstetrician in Queen Mary Hospital?*

A: We need to ensure successful pregnancy, even with high risk cases. The amount of time and work involved is therefore relatively high for the number of cases we deal with. ☺

Dean's Message

There are always new initiatives and development in research in the Faculty. I cannot help but congratulate the staff and students for the good work that they have done. A partnership with the Institut Pasteur indicates nothing but our excellent research track record, for the French have said "we only interact with the best".

Research in the Faculty should aim at an ultimate provision of better health-care, both in prevention and in treatment, for the Community. Our research activities span from basic science to clinical studies, and from the laboratory to the bed-side. Our goal is always to stay at the cutting edge of medical research. Our efforts have been validated by the competitive research grants that have come from the local Research Grants Council, the National Institute of Health, the Wellcome Trust and the Industrial Support

Fund, not to mention the dedicated donations for cancer research and for development of Chinese herbal and natural products.

The Human Genome Project will soon be finished at the beginning of the next century. The post-genome work will be extremely exciting. The Faculty is preparing itself for the challenging research opportunities that lie ahead.

Together we march into an invigorating new era.

With the best of wishes for the New Year,



Exciting News

Associate Deans of the Faculty of Medicine



From January 1, 2000, we are going to have two new Associate Deans, Professor Mary SM Ip (葉秀文) and Dr Louis WC Chow (周永昌) in Education and Community Relations respectively. As Professor Lau Yu-lung's (劉宇隆) has been promoted to the Chair of Paediatrics, he resigned from Associate Deanship. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to Professor Lau for his devoted service especially in the launching of the new MBBS curriculum for the past 5 years. ☺

Establishment of HKU-Pasteur Research Centre

The University of Hong Kong and Institut Pasteur, Paris jointly set up the HKU-Pasteur Research Centre in October, 1999. The goal of the collaboration is to discover new microbial targets for vaccination and antibiotic treatment and to derive more rapid diagnostic tests that can result in more effective control of infectious diseases like pneumonia and influenza in three years' time. The laboratory of the Research Centre will be located in the Dexter Man Building of the Sassoon Road campus.

The creation of the joint Research Centre was promoted by Professor Maxime Schwartz, Director General of Institut Pasteur and Professor YC Cheng (鄭耀宗), Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, prompted by Dr James Kung (孔祥勉). Key members from the University include Professor SK Lam (林兆鑫), Professor KY Yuen (袁國勇), Dr L Cao (曹亮) and Professor HF Kung (孔祥復). Professor Antonie Danchin of Institut Pasteur, a leader in the rapidly expanding research domain of genomics, will team up with university members to develop subtractive genomics, where the comparison



Left: Mr Jerome Pasquier (Counsel General of France), Prof YC Cheng (Vice Chancellor of HKU), Mrs Anson Chan (Chief Secretary of HK), Dr James Kung (Director of HKU-Pasteur Research Centre), Mr Vincent Courtillot (Director of Research, Ministry of Education, Research and Technology, France), Prof Maxime Schwartz (Director General of Institut Pasteur), Prof Grace Tang, (Dean, Faculty of Medicine, HKU).

between genomics is used to identify relevant biological functions and study global gene expression of bacteria in their environment. This new area in biology necessitates not only the knowledge of whole bacterial genome sequences and appropriate experiments using genetics and biochemistry, but also a significant development in the field of bio-informatics. ☺

Recent Events

6th Hong Kong International Cancer Congress



Left: Professor Sir Harry Fang, Dr Lilian Leong, Dr Yeoh Eng-kiang, Dr Alice Lam, Professor YC Cheng, Professor Grace WK Tang, Dr Leong Che-hung, Dr William SW Ho, Professor Raymond HS Liang

The 6th Hong Kong International Cancer Congress was held on November 14 - 17, 1999 at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre in conjunction with the 4th Research Postgraduate Symposium, Faculty of Medicine. It was well attended by more than 860 participants from

18 countries. Over 55 medical and psychosocial oncology sessions were conducted during the 4-day Scientific Program.

The Opening Ceremony was held on Monday, 15 November. Officiating at the ceremony was the Chairman of the University Grants Committee, Dr Alice Lam (林李翹如). Among those in the officiating party were Vice Chancellor, Professor YC Cheng; Dean, Professor Grace Tang and Chief Executive of Hospital Authority, Dr William Ho (何兆煒). Immediately following the Opening Ceremony, Dr EK Yeoh (楊永強), Secretary for Health and Welfare, delivered the HKICC Lecture "Optimizing Cancer Care: The Universe Beyond Medical Science".

To encourage research on medical and psychosocial oncology, three young outstanding researchers received the Young Investigator's Awards. ☺

Recent Events

Health Exhibition 1999 - Emergency Files



The Organizing Committee and guests.

The academic year for medical students started off in the fall with its impressive health exhibition held in the City Hall. Under the supervision of medical advisors from various hospitals, second-year medical students compiled an enormous research over 9 months and produced a magnificent 3-day exhibition on emergency medicine. Through radio broadcasts, websites, 70 board illustrations and live demonstrations from the HK Fire Department and Red Cross, students cautioned participants about the folklore laymen emergency practices and presented the proper procedures to encounter medical emergencies such as choking, heart attacks, drug poisoning, and others. The \$200,000 project was made possible largely through the support from the Health Care and Promotion Fund and the HKU Faculty of Medicine alumni. On-site participants reached up to 3,500 during the exhibition, including special guests such as Professor Rosie Young (楊紫芝), and Dr David Fang (方津生). ☺

The 2nd Symposium of World Association of Chinese Epileptologists (WACE)

The 2nd Symposium of WACE and the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Hong Kong Neurological Society were held on December 4-5, 1999 at the Sheraton Hotel. The Organizer was the Hong Kong Neurological Society and the Neuroscience Research Centre of HKU was the co-sponsor. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee was Professor Virginia Wong (黃珍妮) from the Division of Neurodevelopmental Paediatrics, Department of Paediatrics of the University of Hong Kong. It was also the first time for Hong Kong and China to co-organize the 1st Chinese Neurology Forum in Zhu Hai from November 28 to December 1, 1999.

Professor Wang Xin-de (王新德) (President of the Chinese Society of Neurology) officiated the Opening Ceremony together with Professor Virginia Wong and Professor Yiu Chun-hing (姚俊興) (President of the Taiwan Epilepsy Society).

The theme of the combined symposium was Epilepsy, Stroke and Parkinson's Disease. Overseas invited guests included: Professor Sylvester Chuang (Canada); Professor Antonio Delgado-Escueta (USA); Professor Philip Gorelick (USA) and Professor Yoshikuni Mizuno (Japan). The symposium was attended by 225 delegates from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Japan, United Kingdom and USA. ☺

Seminar on East-West Medicine

A seminar on East-West Medicine was conducted by Professor Hui Ka-kit (許家傑), MD, FACP on September 22, 1999 for the staff of the University of Hong Kong and Queen Mary Hospital.

Professor Hui is the Director of the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine and Professor of Medicine at the UCLA School of Medicine.



Back row from left: Dr PY Lam, Professor Raymond Liang, Dr TH Leung, Dr Vivian Wong, Mrs Margaret Chan, Dr Katherine Lo, Dr William Ho, Professor Jonathan Sham, Front row from left: Dr David Fang, Professor KK Hui, Dr EK Yeoh, Professor Grace Tang.

The academic year for medical students started off in the fall with its impressive health exhibition held in the City Hall. Under the supervision of medical advisors from various hospitals,

He is an internationally known UCLA-trained internist, clinical pharmacologist and geriatrician, with extensive experience in the practices of both Western and traditional Chinese medicine.

Professor Hui shared his theory of interactive East-West medicine at the seminar. He said, "All forms of medicine aim to ease human suffering and to improve quality of life, they differ only in their approach." By adopting system approach in global diagnosis, patients can be treated, not the disease. His emphasis on teaching is to focus on development of conceptual thinking rather than specific skills. ☺

Asian-Pacific Cardiology Forum

The Institute of Cardiovascular Science and Medicine of the University of Hong Kong, in collaboration with the Heart Institute of Japan of Tokyo



Group picture of the speakers and some participants

Women Medical University, convened the first Asian-Pacific Cardiology Forum, which was held in Osaka, Japan on October 1-3, 1999. The objective of this forum was to facilitate an interchange of expert opinions from the Asia-Pacific region and an update on the current clinical practices in the management of cardiovascular diseases. The forum featured four interactive plenary sessions conducted by prominent speakers from the region: Heart Failure, Coronary Artery Disease, Atrial Arrhythmia, and Sudden Death. The key-note lecture on "New Frontiers in Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy" provided insights into the latest research and development on lipid lowering therapy. This forum was well attended by cardiologists from the region and was certainly an enjoyable experience for all participants. ☺

The 4th Postgraduate Symposium

On November 14, 1999, ninety-four Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) candidates took part in the 4th Research Postgraduate Symposium, an annual forum for research postgraduate (RPG) students to present their research projects before specialist panels and peers. This year, the Research Postgraduate Symposium was held in collaboration with the 6th Cancer Congress at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Symposium has now been widely accepted as a valuable and educational experience for RPG candidates.

Presentations were grouped under topics. Candidates who made the best presentations under the Cancer category were given the Young Investigator's Awards by the Cancer Congress, whereas those under other groupings were awarded the Dean's Certificate of Merit. ☺

The award-winners are as follows:

Cancer (Young Investigator's Award, Cancer Congress)

CHAN Scarlet Sze-wing (陳思穎), PhD, Anatomy

LEE Kin-wah Terence (李建華), MPhil, Pathology

Cardiovascular System

LIU Xiao-hui (柳曉慧), PhD, Physiology

SHAN Qi-xian (單綺嫻), MPhil, Physiology

Cytokines, Growth factors

and Infections

LYNN Edward, PhD, Pharmacology

Endocrinology and Reproduction

HWANG Isabel Shui-shan (黃水珊), PhD, Physiology

BASIR Ghazala Sikanadar, MPhil, Obs & Gyn

Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

WANG Hong-ying (汪紅英), PhD, Pharmacology

Chau Jenny Fung-ling (周鳳玲), MPhil, Pharmacology

Molecular Biology

JIANG Zhi-rong (蔣志成), PhD, Institute of Molecular Biology

LEE Yin-ting (李彥霆), MPhil, Biochemistry

Musculoskeletal System

CHIU Thomas Tai-wing (趙帶榮), PhD, Community Medicine

Neuroscience

LAI Chun-hong (黎振航), PhD, Physiology

LAM Leon Wai-yuan (林瑞源), MPhil, Anatomy

Public Health

ZHU Chang-qi (朱昌祺), PhD, Community Medicine

CHU Mang-yee (朱孟怡), MPhil, Medicine

Recent Events

Collaborative Research Centre on Reproductive Medicine

The official opening ceremony of a collaborative research centre on reproductive medicine between the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, HKU and the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Tangdu Hospital, The Fourth Military Medical University (FMMU) was held in Xian on September 19, 1999. The Centre is located at the Tangdu Hospital in Xian. Professor Chen Sheng-qiu (陳勝秋), Vice-President of FMMU and Professor Liu Zhen-li (劉振立), President of Tangdu Hospital of Xian, Professor PC Ho (何柏松), Head of Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Dr WSB Yeung (楊樹標) attended the ceremony. ☺



Alumni Update

First Meeting of The University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association (HKUMAA)



Nostalgia, family reunion, happy homecoming, these were the feelings that the First Meeting of the University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association aroused in its participants.

210 persons joined the tours to revisit the main University campus, the Medical School Complex, and the Queen Mary Hospital. They listened to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Cheng Kai-ming's (程介明) introduction on the development of the University in the past 400 years. Apart from visiting the Medical Library, Institute of Molecular Biology and Anatomy Museum, they saw the construction site of the New Medical Complex. When the "Alumni Floor" was highlighted, the most popular question was the number of parking spaces. Many nodding heads appeared when the answer (190) was given. They then proceeded to the Education Unit and played with the modern teaching equipment used for the new MBBS curriculum, such as virtual reality simulator.

The Associate Dean (Education), Professor Lau Yu-lung (劉宇隆) and 2 medical students, Mr Hsu Shing-jik (徐成智) and Mr Chow Chin-pang (周展鵬) expounded the virtues of the new medical curriculum, with good interactions from the audience. The past graduates, whilst agreeing to many aspects of the new curriculum, also had some reservations about such radical changes, claiming that they, as products of the old curriculum, had been doing quite well.

The day ended with a sumptuous dinner, at the Loke Yew Hall. 270 persons filled the Hall to capacity. Professor Rosie Young (楊紫芝), the President of HKUMAA, gave a heartfelt speech, saying "when I looked through the lists of attendance, it brought back many happy memories of my entire academic and professional career, my decades of working in the University".

She had time to mention just a few names, from young graduates such as Dr Fan Kin-ping (樊建平) and Dr Li Hang-wun (李幸奐), class of 1999, to "intermediates" such as Professor Kan Yuet-wai (簡



The Community Chest "Dress Causal Day"



The Dean made a donation and supported the staff of the Faculty Office to participate in the Community Chest "Dress Causal Day" on September 24, 1999.

悦威) and Dr Gordon Low (羅安鼎), to "seniors" such as Dr Gerald Choa (蔡永業), Dr George Choa (蔡永善), Dr Joseph Pan (潘蔭基) and Dr Hu Shih-chang (胡世昌). Dr Yeoh Eng-kiong (楊永強), the newly appointed secretary for Health and Welfare, was jokingly reminded to pay his annual registration fee to the Medical Council.

She also stated why the establishment of HKUMAA was significant in addition to associations like Convocation, HKU Alumni, HKMA. In the era of rising expectations and unprecedented changes, medical alumni can contribute even more towards the University in alumni networking with a sense of belonging. Medical alumni must work with the government to bring about changes by taking part in the work at all levels, to achieve the Faculty's Mission "to provide an environment conducive to the advancement of learning, teaching and research in the art and science of medicine and health and the provision of patient care, and in doing so, to benefit and serve Hong Kong, the rest of China and the international community".

The Honorary Secretary of HKUMAA, Professor Leung Ping (梁平), spoke of the benefits of joining the Association, and illustrated many potential features of the "Alumni Floor", hoping to solicit contributions to complete the job.

Dr George Choa and Dr Ip Yan-ming (葉恩明) were invited to deliver amusing anecdotes. Dr Choa, with vivid descriptions of harsh and spartan conditions, recounted his experience of past about his "war-time" medical curriculum inside mainland China.

The musical talents of our doctors were amply displayed by vocal pieces by members of the HKMA choir and a chamber music ensemble.

To conclude the First Meeting, Dr Chiu Shin-chak (趙善策) in his capacity of the Chairman of Events Subcommittee, gave the concluding remarks, in his usual gentlemanly way, mentioning not much about his own efforts but giving credit to one and all who helped to make this occasion a success.

This First Meeting was a memorable occasion, when all alumni attended as equals; when "juniors", "intermediates" and "seniors" became a true family; and the sense of belonging to the Alma Mater was overwhelming. ☺



1966 Medical Graduates Celebrated 33rd Anniversary

In October 1999, 12 classmates who are now resident overseas returned from Australia, Canada and USA with their families to join the Hong Kong folks for the reunion. The programme started with a welcome dinner with 45 participants at Loke Yew Hall on October 28. It was an evening of nostalgia. From October 29 to November 1, 37 classmates and their dependents went on a trip to Guilin. The 4 days

were full of fun, laughter, excitement and activities. The main event of the celebration was the Chinese banquet at the Hong Kong Jockey Club on November 2 when the



classmates and their spouses were all dressed up to entertain their former teachers. Among the guests were celebrities like Professor GB Ong (王源美), Professor Sir Harry Fang (方心讓) and Professor Rosie Young (楊紫芝), President of HKUMAA. ☺

Dr Chan Che-keung (陳自強) wrote a Chinese poem for this special occasion.

"六六豈止無窮盡
三三顯示應運生
九九當是運長久
但願同窗一世亨"



Dr NK Leung (梁乃江)

20th Anniversary Reunion of Medic 79



In 1979, 150 young people left Sassoon Road and became doctors. In this last year of the 20th century, they celebrated their 20th anniversary.

Under the leadership of Professor Raymond Liang, a core group started to work 1 year ago. A homepage (www.medic79.org) was set up by Drs Wong Chun-por (王春波) and Marie Tam (譚瑰姿), which had acted as the centre for exchange of information and communication.

The highlight was the banquet, which was held in Loke Yew Hall (LYH) on the evening of September 25, 1999. The LYH was chosen as it was such a memorable place for the class. Among the numerous functions, the Hall had witnessed their orientation and Medic Nite in 1974, till the final MB examination in 1979. It was hoped that this happy reunion in LYH could desensitize their phobia to the place.

The function was joined by over 120 classmates and spouses. Among them were classmates returning from the States and Australia for the function, including Drs Chan Fung-ye (陳鳳儀), James

Cheung (張毓靈), Thomas Ng (吳恆堅), Pun Wai-ki (潘偉祺), Dennis Shum (沈明德), Anthony Tan (陳海星) and Marie Tam (譚瑰姿).

The evening passed quickly with a stage talk show by almost everyone in the Hall. As a tradition, the talks were met warmly with paper aeroplanes and whistles.

An outdoor function was planned for the next day, but it was cancelled due to untimely hoisting of typhoon signal 10. However, everyone is now looking forward to the next reunion. ☺

Dr KC Lam (林光前)

Medic 89 Reunion

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, a re-union dinner gathering was held on September 5, 1999. The idea of the celebration was



conceived by a few "traditionally active" classmates and an organizing committee was formed under the leadership of Dr Cheung Wing-yung (張永融), KWH and Dr Loh Lai-ting (羅麗婷), DH. Several other classmates helped as co-ordinators to spread the news and to plan the function. The response was exceptionally good. We were proud to see an attendance of 98 classmates and their spouses including 6 children. A cocktail reception was held at a hotel, followed by a delicious buffet dinner. The photo session revived our memories. Apart from the group photo, we all wanted to pose with our classmates of the various groupings from year one to five. The professional photographer did a wonderful job to accommodate all our requests. With the help of Dr Lui Wai-man (呂偉文), QMH, Dr Hung Hak-hon (洪克翰), AHNH and Dr Raymond Chan (陳禮文), KWH, a CD-ROM photo album will be distributed to classmates later. Last but not least, we would like to thank members of the organizing committee as well as Diana Liu and Nancy Chow from the Faculty office in making the gathering so memorable. ☺

Drs Benjamin CY Wong (王振宇), QMH and WY Cheung, KWH

Hello & Goodbye

Welcome to the Faculty !!

Ms Marie Tarrant(戴美儀), Lecturer, Department of Nursing Studies: I am from Canada and have spent most of my nursing career working as a Community Health Nurse and Nurse Practitioner in remote Aboriginal communities across Northern Canada. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Lethbridge and my graduate degree at the University of Manitoba. I have previously taught in the Nursing Departments at Brandon University and McMaster University in Canada. My areas of interest include population health, communicable disease control, and child health.

Professor Jacques Hugon, Chair Professor, Department of Anatomy: I received both MD and PhD training at the University of Paris (France). I spent two years in Yemen and then joined the University of Limoges as Clinical Assistant Professor. I then moved to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York where I worked in the Departments of Neurology and Neurosciences on the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease. I went back as Associate Professor and consultant neurologist at the Limoges University Hospital where I became Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Histology and Cell Biology. My major research interests are the molecular mechanisms of neuronal degeneration and apoptosis and their links to human neurological disorders and neuroprotection.



Professor Amin A. Nanji, Professor, Department of Pathology: I received my undergraduate medical training in Nairobi, Kenya and pursued postgraduate training at the University of British Columbia teaching hospitals. Before arriving in Hong Kong, I was Associate Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School (1988-1999). My interest and area of research is related to mechanisms of liver injury in a variety of liver diseases and alcoholism. Collaborations with individuals working in the fields of inflammation including anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic therapy would assist in the development of treatment for liver diseases.



Miss Beatrice Law(羅桂瓊), Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing Studies: After receiving my general education and basic nursing in Hong Kong, I obtained my BSc (Nsg Ed), MHA and two clinical nursing specialties (gerontological & enterostomal nursing) overseas. Having worked as School Principal in a nursing school of the Hospital Authority for 10 years, I wish to join a tertiary institute for advancing my academic pursuit. My areas of interest include curriculum reform, teaching methodology, education evaluation, gerontology, wound and continence nursing.

Goodbye & Best Wishes!!

Retiring:

Professor JCS Yang(楊卷菴), Chair and Head, Department of Anaesthesiology: Being the expert in pain management and leader in clinical pain research, he established basic science research on pain, collaborating with both basic science institutions overseas and within the University. He established the Pain Clinic at Queen Mary Hospital and successfully launched the Diploma in



Pain Management. He was also elected the best teacher of the year by medical students in 1996.

Resigned:

Dr PL Chan(曾寶玲), Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Dr KL Liu(廖嘉麗), Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Professor WCG Peh(白振源), Department of Diagnostic Radiology

Congratulations to...

Professor So Kwok-fai(蘇國輝) for being selected as an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Professor Chow Shew-ping(周肇平) for being appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the period January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2002.

Professor John CY Leong(梁智仁) for being appointed as the Chairman of the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation from October 1, 1999 to September 20, 2001.

Professor Lau Yu-lung(劉宇隆) for being promoted to the Chair of Paediatrics and Head of the Department of Paediatrics.

Professor Chan Tak-mau(陳德茂) for being promoted to Reader in the Department of Medicine.

Professor Stephen WK Cheng(鄭永強) for being promoted to Reader in the Department of Surgery.

Professor Lo Chung-mau(盧寵茂) for being promoted to Reader in the Department of Surgery.

Dr Cheung Pik-to(張璧濤) for being promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics.

Donations

The Kadoorie Charitable Foundations has donated HK\$14 million to support lung & lymphoma cancer research by Professor Raymond HS Liang (梁憲孫) and colleagues.

The DH Chen Foundation has donated HK\$3.5 million to set up a Centre for Paraplegic Walking at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Queen Mary Hospital.

The DePuy International Limited has donated HK\$1.5 million to support clinical research related to Knee Replacement Surgery with Dr Peter KY Chiu (曲廣運) as Principal Investigator.

The Shun Hing Education and Charity Fund Limited has donated HK\$1 million to set up the Dr William MW Mong Development Fund in Orthopaedic Surgery, in recognition of the work and contribution of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery towards Orthopaedics and Traumatology.

The Jackie Chan Charitable Foundation has donated HK\$250,000 to the Department of Medicine to help the underprivileged patients who require coronary angio-plasty surgery.

Forthcoming Events

ELITT and Laparoscopic Laser Surgery in Gynaecology

Date : January 28, 2000
Venue : Lecture Theatre, 5/F, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital
Information : Miss Kathy Chang, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, 6/F, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital
Tel: 2855 4864 Fax: 2819 3859

Departmental Postgraduate Seminar in Pathology

Date : January 28, 2000; February 25, 2000; March 24, 2000; March 31, 2000; April 28, 2000
Venue : Room 004 University Pathology Building, Queen Mary Hospital
Information : Ms Judy Tse, Department of Pathology, University Pathology Building, Queen Mary Hospital
Tel: 2855 4864 Fax: 2819 3859

Medical Research Conference

Date : January 22-23, 2000
Venue : Hong Kong
Information : Mrs Denise Tung, Department of Medicine, 4/F, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital
Tel: 2855 4607 Fax: 2855 1143

Digby Memorial Lecture

Date : January 15, 2000 (10:00am - 11:00am)
Venue : 5/F Lecture Theatre, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital
Information : Forum Secretary
Tel: 2855 4993

Hong Kong Surgical Forum and 6th Joint Shanghai/HK Surgical Convention

Dates : January 15-16, 2000 (HK); January 17-18, 2000 (Shanghai)
Venue (HK) : 5/F Lecture Theatre, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital
Venue (SH) : Rui Jin Hospital, Shanghai, PRC
Information : Forum Secretary
Tel: 2855 4993

Medical Education Reform: the Hong Kong Experience

Date : March 8-10, 2000
Venue : Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Hong Kong and Medical Faculty Campus, Sassoon Road
Information : Ms Jeannie Tsang and Miss May Lam, Medical Faculty Office
Tel: 2819 9296, 2872 5606

Symposium on "Cytokines and Inflammatory Response" (Under the 11th Asian Pacific Congress of Gastroenterology & the 8th Asian Pacific Congress of Digestive Endoscopy)

Date : March 14, 2000 (14:00 - 15:30)
Venue : HK Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Expro Drive, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Information : Ms Clare Wong or Ms Veronica Cheng, Centre of Alimentary Research & Education
Tel: 2855 3354, 2111 7574

5th & 6th Meeting of the Centre of Human Development and Birth Defects (CDD) Talks

Dates : January 29, 2000; March 25, 2000
Venue (5th) : Seminar Room, Department of Biochemistry, Li Shu Fan Building, 5 Sassoon Road
Venue (6th) : Seminar Room, 1/F, Dexter HC Man Building, 8 Sassoon Road
Information : Dr SY Chan, Department of Paediatrics
Tel: 2855 4634

March Symposium - A Central Ethics Committee for International Drug Trials in Hong Kong

Date : March 18, 2000
Venue : Underground Lecture Theatre, LG1, New Clinical Building, Queen Mary Hospital
Information : HYPERLINK <http://www.hku.hk/ctc.hku.hk/>, ctc.ctcentre@hkucc.hku.hk

From the Editor:

With another new academic year, our Editorial Board welcomes two new members, Dr CS Lau(劉澤星) and Dr YH Leung (梁如鴻). We would also like to thank the outgoing members who have served the Board for a number of years - Professor PL Sullivan, Professor CH Cho (曹之憲), Dr CM Wong (黃浙明) and Dr SP Sheng (盛懷珍).

As we move into the new millenium, we look forward to more news and views from the Faculty and its alumni. The addition of Chinese names in a few of the recent issues has been made in response to the suggestion some time ago from Dr MH Shiu (蕭文曦), an alumni. Do send us your opinion and comments on ways to improve the newsletter.

Editorial Board :

Professor Mary SM Ip (Editor) (葉秀文)
Professor CM Lo (盧寵茂)

Professor LCK Low (盧忠啟)
Dr CS Lau (劉澤星)

Dr YH Leung (梁如鴻)
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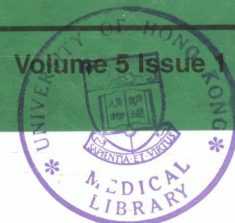
Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

April 2000

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch and up to date.



Spotlight on Department of Paediatrics

30 MAY 2000

Historical Development

The Department of Paediatrics started as a service unit at Queen Mary Hospital within the University Department of Medicine. It was not until 1962 when C Elaine Field was appointed as the first Professor of Paediatrics that co-ordinated effort to re-organize the paediatric service and the academic activities of the discipline began.



Christmas-tide in the old children's ward in early 70's

Early accommodation for sick children was in the Children's Wing and Head Ward of the Hospital. With increasing clinical activities, several divisions were created to provide service for new born infants of Tsan Yuk Maternity Hospital in 1980, children with cardiac problems at Grantham Hospital (1982) and children with various handicaps at Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital (1985). A team of Neonatal and Intensive Care Paediatricians (1982), and a program on haematology / oncology / immunology service (1989) were also established. A strong endocrinology team and a neurology / developmental paediatric service programme have also been organized by the mid 1980s.

Progressive addition of intensive care facilities and designation of manpower resource to the neonatal unit was first organised in late 1980. Gratifying results were achieved as exemplified by a marked improvement of survival of very low birth weight newborn infants at Queen Mary Hospital from 20% in the 6-year period before 1981 to 90% in a similar period after the introduction of the ICU programme. Increasing collaborations between the paediatric and obstetric departments have also occurred with institution of regular perinatal meetings and bed-side rounds, paediatric involvement in antenatal diagnostic and counseling services and other joint professional projects.

Teaching of undergraduate students has always been emphasized and paediatrics became an independent subject in the final MBBS examination since 1964. Paediatrics was the first clinical discipline to emphasize on holistic patient care in its service and teaching programmes, through activities such as home visits and medical social case conferences among staff and students in early 70's. To promote psycho-social support for sick children, we implemented liberal visitations to the sick children under our care and we were the first public hospital in Hong Kong to break away from the tradition of "4 visiting-hours a week" in 1982.

We have also initiated a number of "parent support groups", with a distinguished example of the "Cooley's Anaemia Association" in 1982, long before the concepts of self-help and enhanced health education to the public had even crept into the Hong Kong culture. Our child-centred approach in medical care was well illustrated in our effort to establish paediatric laboratory in the mid 1960s to provide various chemical and hematological tests in semi-micro and micro

scales to avoid taking large quantities of blood needed for testing by the hospital laboratories from these "small" patients. It was not until late 1980s when the hospital laboratory services eventually agreed to completely take over the tests utilizing small blood samples.

Quality research work, especially those studying locally relevant child health issues, has always been emphasized. Examples can be found in several community child health projects studying: 1) child growth in Hong Kong children, 2) infantile diarrhoeal syndromes, 3) lead overload and poisoning, 4) asthma surveillance studies, etc. Uniquely Chinese paediatric problems have also been investigated; these have included: 1) neonatal jaundice and various laboratory aspects on bilirubin metabolism, 2) G6PD deficiency, 3) genetic mutations of thalassaemia syndrome, etc. Increasing amount of basic research work is featured in the recent decade; these have included molecular genetic and cell biology studies on the pattern and the mechanism of certain childhood diseases.

The department has always assumed a leading role in community paediatric affairs. This can be seen by the initiation of the Hong Kong Paediatric Society (1962) and the Hong Kong Academy College of Paediatricians (1988), besides organizing and participating in special interest groups such as the Spastic Association in 1963 and the Cooley's Anemia Association in 1982 and the UNICEF (Hong Kong) in 1985. All senior staff have contributed actively to academic and professional exchanges with other paediatric centres, especially with those in China. Our department was among the first clinical departments to foster such exchanges with Mainland China since 1982. Exchange academic visits at different levels regularly occur with centres in various parts of the world. External fundings have been secured for Visiting Professors to come to teach in the department every year. We have also been offering scholarships for trainees coming from Mainland China, Philippines and other Asian countries. ☺

By Professor C Y Yeung (楊執庸)



Departmental Photograph

What's Inside

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Interview with Professor YL Lau (劉宇隆) (Head and Chief of Service of Department)



"Congratulations to your recent appointment to the Chair and Headship of the Department of Paediatrics."

"Thank you! I am just happy to be able to continue to serve our Department and to help it evolve along the direction of the Faculty and the University," said Professor YL Lau with his usual modesty.

How long have you been back in Hong Kong and what changes in the Department have you observed over these years?

"I returned to Hong Kong in 1988 after spending 16 years in the United Kingdom. In those days, the Department was less orientated towards research. However, since the early 1990's, we have become more research orientated and we have continued to grow in this direction since," answered Professor Lau.

"What are your plans for the Department?"

"The plans are along the three important functions of all academic clinical department - teaching, research and clinical services," said Professor Lau.

Professor Lau has been heavily involved in undergraduate teaching, particularly the new curriculum which started three years ago in our Medical School. In the two months since Professor Lau has been appointed to the Headship, he has visited the paediatric departments of nine public hospitals and contacted over twenty private paediatricians to arrange possible attachment of his students. "It is important that our students experience how other hospitals function as well as paediatrics and child health in the community. It is also important to create a 'Hong Kong identity' amongst our students," enthused Professor Lau.

"While we implement changes in the way we teach our students, methods used to assess them should be modified, too," said Professor Lau. In the Department of Paediatrics, students as from year 2000 will be assessed using more objective methods. For example, in the clinical examination, students will be observed and assessed while they are interviewing a child's parent(s) for clinical history. In this way, the examiners will be able to assess the student's line of thoughts, problem orientation as well as communication skills.

Professor Lau is a strong advocate of scientific research as backbones for the advancement in medicine. In the last two months, he has introduced a number of schemes to encourage his staff to actively participate in research. He encourages collaboration between members of his Department as well as other Faculty members. To further develop research culture within his Department, Professor Lau has recently created a departmental research fund to support all full-time members, academic and non-academic, on their research proposals. A new mentorship scheme for junior staff of the Department has also been started recently. "The objective of this scheme is to nurture our junior staff in basic and clinical research. In addition to supervising the junior member on his/her research project, the mentor will also teach him/her scientific writing skills. This scheme is particularly aimed for registrars who are submitting a dissertation to the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians as part of the exit examination requirement. Every effort will be made to encourage our registrars to base their dissertations on a research project. Limited funding support will be provided by the Department and we hope that most of these dissertations will appear as scientific papers in local and international journals," stressed Professor Lau.

"I would like to encourage our staff to venture into new areas of research, too," said Professor Lau. These areas include genome research as well as immunology and molecular medicine. Professor Lau would like to establish research collaboration with community based paediatricians and honorary staff of the Department, and to continue the collaboration with paediatric units in China," added Professor Lau.

On the development of clinical services in paediatrics, Professor Lau feels there is a need for a better interface between carers for children in the community and the Department. To start with, the Department will set up a user friendly "one-stop" referral system for honorary teachers of the Department. Direct referrals can be made to on-call staff in Queen Mary Hospital. Once the acute problem has been dealt with, the child can be

referred back to the honorary teacher for further follow-up.

Asked if he has any personal plans, Professor Lau said, "The administrative duties have taken up 120% of my time so far and I have had no time to think about my own plans for the time being." Having said that, however, Professor Lau has established a number of research areas which he hopes to continue. They include research in cord blood immunology; telomerase activity and cell survival; mannose binding lectin and various disease states; and immune response in common childhood disorders such as influenza infection. In the clinical aspect, Professor Lau is keen to continue his programme in vaccine development as well as facilitating the implementation of screening for the prevention of vertical transmission of HIV infection in his capacity as the Chairman of the Scientific Committee on AIDS.

"Finally, can you sum up in one sentence what expectations paediatrics do you have in our graduates?"

"I am afraid that it is not possible to sum up my expectation in one sentence," said Professor Lau. "Well, at the end of our curriculum, I would expect my students to realize the importance of the upbringing of a child, and that would require a holistic approach as well as tolerance and appreciation. It is also important that our students are aware of differences in the physiology of a child at different developmental stages. They should understand that the baby is not a small child and the child is not a small adult. As the old-saying goes, 'The Child is the Father of the Man.' Lastly, of course, all my students should be humane to his patients and knowledgeable in common paediatric conditions."

In other words, Professor Lau expects his students to be like him. This may be a hard act to follow. ☺

Interview with Dr PT Cheung (張璧濤)

Q: *Name one direction that you think the Department of Paediatrics should focus on to strengthen the role in Paediatrics?*

A: I have personally chosen to establish a range of complementary molecular genetic mutational analyses that can strengthen clinical management. Bringing mature laboratory research



tools to clinical practice is one of my missions. I am currently involved in understanding the molecular genetic basis for such clinical problems as insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, congenital adrenal and salt disorders, sexual differentiation disorders, short stature, and some neurodegenerative disorders like spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy, mitochondrial DNA defect, and Pelizaeus Merzbacher Disease.

Q: *Why are you also engaged in basic neuroscience research as a clinical endocrinologist?*

A: I believe that as powerful basic research tools mature, there is no real boundaries by traditional academic disciplines when it comes to basic scientific work, kind of like information technology blurring the boundaries in the physical world. In neuroscience, I am exploring the basic cellular and molecular mechanisms in neural injuries and regeneration and testing the effect of new therapeutic measures. This is a natural extension of my research in the role of insulin like growth factor (IGF) when we identified novel IGF binding protein involved in the growth and development of neural cells. Molecules like IGF-I are very powerful and clinically applicable.

Q: *Any particular message about research that you want to give to our readers?*

A: We need to promote a strong research culture amongst our medical undergraduates so that there are more young motivated doctors who are poised to conduct in-depth research, clinical or basic alike, in their future career path. It is my dream to see our graduates practise with an ever inquisitive mind and life-long learning attitude. ☺

Interview With Professor Maurice P Leung (梁平)



Q: *The Paediatric Cardiology Division in Grantham Hospital is the oldest of such units in Hong Kong, can you tell us a little history about it?*

A: Well, in the old days, paediatric cardiology cases were principally managed by adult cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons. The subspecialty of paediatric cardiology began to take shape when Dr Wai

Kei-ho (韋基豪), a well trained paediatric cardiologist from the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children joined our Department in 1973. Later Dr Lau Kai-chiu (劉啟超) and Dr Roxy Lo (勞樂聲) joined, and together with the Departments of Medicine and Surgery, they established a comprehensive service for patients with congenital heart disease for the whole territory of Hong Kong. Our Division has its ups and downs. It was down to its bare minimum just before 1997 when I was the only academic staff left. Things have, however, improved in the last few years and we now have a relatively well staffed team with myself, Dr Cheung Yiu-fai (張耀輝), Assistant Professor; Dr Chow Kai-tung (周啟東), Consultant and Dr Yung Tak-cheung (翁德祥), Senior Medical Officer. We continue to provide a tertiary referral service for major paediatric cardiac surgery in Hong Kong. However, with expansion in our subspecialty, major hospital authority hospitals are now capable of diagnosing congenital heart disease at an early stage. A tight network has been set up between these hospitals and the Grantham Hospital.

Q: *Are you seeing more patients over the years?*

A: The incidence of congenital cardiac disease is relatively stable. With decreasing birth rate in recent decades, we now see 60 - 70 new cases per year compared to about 100 previously.

Q: *Does this therefore mean less work for you and your staff?*

A: On the contrary, indeed. With advances in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques, we now have a much better diagnostic and management programme for our patients. We are also working with obstetricians on prenatal diagnosis of congenital heart disease.

Q: *Has the introduction of new techniques contributed to the research activities of the Division?*

A: Yes. With our very refined echocardiography technique, we have been able to accurately define the cardiac anatomy and surgical pathology of young patients. A good number of studies have been generated in this area. We are also engaged in molecular genetic studies in 'common' congenital heart disease such as Fallot's tetralogy and the catch 22 (22q-) syndrome.

Q: *With all these advancements, you must be seeing an improvement in survival and quality of life of your patients?*

A: Indeed, with many of our previously sick children now growing and leading a normal life, I may not recognise them if I have not seen them for some time.

Q: *Are there other personal satisfactions?*

A: Since our Unit has the oldest tradition in Hong Kong, we have been able to provide postgraduate training in cardiology for many paediatricians in the locality, and for many colleagues from China and other Asia Pacific countries, too.

Q: *With so many "pluses", are there any 'minuses' in your job?*

A: I guess so. Probably because of the distance between the Grantham Hospital and Queen Mary Hospital and the Faculty office, I do sometimes feel isolated from the main medical school. Additionally, since paediatric cardiology is a highly specialised subject, one sometimes gets very absorbed in it and may become 'too focused'.

Q: *Finally, besides many of the programmes that you have mentioned above, what other long term plans do you have?*

A: As mentioned above, many of our patients have now grown into adulthood. Currently, I am working very hard with our adult cardiologists to start a new subspecialty in adult congenital heart disease. ☺

Interview with Professor Virginia CN Wong (黃珍妮)

Q: *In which direction do you see Paediatrics is going to move in the next 10 years?*

A: In the past it was a part of Medicine and now it has been developing more sub-specialties of its own such as neurology, neonatology, oncology. I think that in the future, it may integrate with other disciplines rather than just keep on splitting into various subspecialties of its own.

Q: *So what role does the University Department of Paediatrics have in developing generalization or subspecialization?*

A: As a university, I think we should have a leading role in sub-specialization. We need to in order to excel in tertiary research.

Q: *Do you think the average parent is aware of the University Department of Paediatrics at HKU?*

A: They are not, because we never promoted ourselves openly despite being good clinicians-researchers. We have been very very low profile all along.

Q: *If you were to publicize the University Department of Paediatrics, what aspects would you focus on?*

A: We should publicize about our leadership in research, education and clinical service, and our pioneer contribution to Paediatrics in Asia.

Q: *How is your research on tongue acupuncture doing so far?*

A: Actually I have finished the work on autism already but I am still analyzing the results. It is encouraging. We are going to Guangzhou to do research on stroke patients. In HK it is difficult to recruit so many patients. We hope to promote Traditional Chinese Medicine research in Hong Kong. ☺



Interview with Professor Louis CK Low (盧忠啟)

Q: *What is your perception of the direction of your department for the next 10-20 years?*

A: What is likely to happen is that changes will need to be made to meet the expectations of the community. The government has placed more emphasis on primary healthcare recently. In order to produce graduates who are more geared up to work in the field of

paediatrics, we have to modify our paediatric curriculum to place more emphasis on teaching by primary care paediatricians as compared to the present which is heavily hospital-based. I think the number of medical undergraduates are going to be decreasing. One way to maintain the resources is to increase the number of postgraduate students by taught courses and by research.

Q: *What do you think is the image of your department in the medical community in HK?*

A: On the whole, I think staff of our unit are held in high esteem. Doctors in private practice have for a long time referred patients to the Department of Paediatrics because of strong subspecialty development. On the whole, when compared to other paediatric units in Hong Kong, our department is fairly all rounded with very senior members of staff looking after each subspecialty, and our subspecialty units are well established with local, regional or international recognition.

Q: *Do you see that the 'general paediatrician' will become obsolete?*

A: On the contrary, I believe that general paediatrics should be the basis of all the paediatric subspecialties. I would actually like to see paediatricians as primary care clinicians looking after babies, children and adolescents. There is need of strong subspecialty development but the demand for subspecialists will not be high in a small place like Hong Kong. In the year as to come, more paediatric trainees will eventually work as general paediatricians in the community rather than as subspecialists.



Q: Do you think the University Department of Paediatrics should focus on general paediatrics or subspecialties?

A: We should try to do both. At the present moment, the bulk of our teaching duty is for undergraduates. Subspecialty development in our Department is important for us to keep pace with the rapid medical advances worldwide.

Q: Can you tell us something about your own research?

A: My research is mainly in the field of paediatric endocrinology and I am also interested in molecular aspects of inherited

endocrine disorders. We are actually now moving a bit more into growth nutrition.

Q: Do you see the department as a regional referral centre for molecular diagnosis and genetics in paediatrics?

A: I think we have to work towards that, because if you look at the development of the Faculty, it is one area that our Faculty is placing a lot of emphasis on, and I think the department should work towards that goal. We also have faculty members who are actively involved in this area of research. ☺

Update on Post-Graduate Degree Programmes

Master of Medical Science

The Master of Medical Science programme was completely revamped in 1994 to provide structured training in the basic medical and clinical disciplines to enable postgraduates to embark on specialist studies, practice or teaching, and for career and personal development. Another objective is to provide a bridging mechanism for pre-clinical and clinical studies, and to promote integrated training in the fundamentals of basic and applied medical sciences.



Professor Paul Tam of Surgery, Dr and Mrs Ng Kwok-keung at Dr Ng's graduation.



Small group tutorial for the Specialised Module in Public Health

The academic governance of the MMedSc programme is under a Board of Studies, with Professor John CY Leong (梁智仁) as the chairman. It was initially administered by the School of Postgraduate Medical Education and Training, and since 1999, directly under the Faculty of Medicine.

The number of candidates for the MMedSc degree has seen a steep linear increase, from 7 in 1994/5 to 65 in 1999/2000. A breakdown of all MMedSc degree candidates to date include 38 medical graduates, 125 science graduates, and 14 other health-care professional graduates. For candidates doing modular courses only, the total number since inception is 654. ☺

Back to School - Great Challenge to a Chief-of-service

There are several reasons why I joined the Master of Medical Sciences Programme organised by HKU. Firstly, I believe that constantly upgrading our knowledge and skills and keeping ourselves abreast of the latest changes are fundamental tributes of a medical doctor to ensure quality patient care. Secondly, after advancement to the position of clinical consultant and subsequently chief of service of a clinical department, I find the need to supervise junior colleagues on research projects. Thirdly, in order to promote and practise evidence-based medicine, the wisdom and skills of critical appraisal of medical literature are pre-requisites. Lastly, it is in my self-interest, to have a more structured training on paediatric endocrinology so that I may contribute more actively in this field.

On recognising my own insufficiencies and with the desire and motivation to learn at a stage when I can afford the time and money, and more important still, the energy and intellectual capacity, I venture to take up such a course on a 2-year part-time basis. It is quite a great challenge to me after graduating from the medical school for more than 17 years.

Going back to school was a rejuvenating process. Wearing Tees and jeans, strolling along Sassoon Road, sitting in the underground lecture theatres of Li Shu Fan Building browsing journals in the medical library, all brought back sweet memories of U-life. I suddenly had the urge to count my blessings through all these years. Of course, there were big differences being a student this time and then. This time, I had friends and colleagues as supervisors with whom I can chat, and discuss over meals and cups of coffee. Needless to say, I had hard times in preparing for exams, reviews, dissertation and, Nevertheless, I also enjoyed the fun in the process, the sense of achievement of passing exams and completing the dissertation.

It was just like bearing a baby and having the joy of giving birth.

I took up 4 core modules on "laboratory methods and instrumentation"; "numerical methods and statistics in clinical practice"; "epidemiology and critical appraisal"; and "gene and gene functions"; and a specialised module on "paediatric endocrinology". Overall, I think the course met my expectations. It was eye-opening and confidence-building. For the teaching style, I prefer that in "Epidemiology and critical appraisal". "Laboratory methods", sorry to say, was the most boring and I often fell asleep in class. I hope they can be more clinically orientated. I find the advances in genetics most fascinating. Great challenges! Lifelong learning is everybody's business. Would you like to set a new target? Turn an idea into reality with an action.

By Dr Huen Kwai-fun (禰桂芬), Chief of Service & Consultant, Department of Paediatrics, Tseung Kwan O Hospital. ☺

Master of Research in Medicine (MRes[Med]) Programme

For the first time, a Master of Research degree programme will be introduced to Hong Kong at the HKU Faculty of Medicine in the coming September, with the specific aim to provide structured research training to MBBS students while they are still in the medical school, and to develop in them life-long skills in the art and science of medical research.

The Master of Research in Medicine (MRes[Med]) programme is a full time intercalated programme for MBBS students to take place between Year 3 and Year 4 of the medical curriculum, and during the Special Studies Module of Year 5. Candidates will be required to undertake a minimum of 408 hours of prescribed work comprising a supervised research project, hands-on training in research skills, and relevant coursework. Scholarships covering the composition fee as well as a subsistence allowance will be provided. Professional accreditation of the MRes(Med) programme from the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine is being sought with the hope that the degree can be counted as a defined period of research training toward the achievement of the FHKAM qualification.

Enquiries on the MRes(Med) can be addressed to Professor YS Chan (陳應城), Associate Dean (Research), at 2819 9263, or yschan@hkucc.hku.hk. ☺

The Master of Nursing in Advanced Practice (MN)

Given the enormous global challenges in health care delivery, the Department of Nursing Studies has developed an innovative answer to the problems of health care in Hong Kong. Creating a new international role for registered nurses who wish to make a larger contribution to health care delivery, the department has begun a three-year, part-time, MN programme to prepare an advanced practice nurse. The role of advanced practice nursing will give the Registered Nurse a higher degree of autonomy and greatly increased opportunities and responsibilities to improve the delivery of primary health care and to participate in outcome-oriented health research. ☺

Dean's Message



The Faculty of Medicine has the longest history in all tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. It is also the first Faculty to embark on a medical education reform of its centurial curriculum since 1997. It is the forerunner of medical education reform in the Asian region.

I am very proud to report to you that our seminar and workshop on "Medical Education Reform : the Hong Kong Experience" in March was well attended by over 70 medical education leaders from 28 Universities in the Asian region. The participants agreed on the need to form an Asian Medical Education Association and our Medical Faculty was made the Liaison Office. The aims of the Association are: to identify, recognise and enhance the characteristic features and strengths

of Asian medical education; to share information and experience about medical education; and to strengthen and promote good pedagogy and research on medical education.

Although there might be skeptics of medical education reform, I must take this opportunity to let you know that the reform activities have created many occasions for us to improve on our teaching, both in our existing curriculum and our new curriculum. We are mindful of the need for quality assurance of our teaching and learning activities and hence, we are collecting data through monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for us to take reference. We feel accountable to the public and to the profession to educate future doctors who are not only knowledgeable, but also skillful, humane and ethical.

We aspire to be the Centre of Excellence for Medical Education. ☺

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

These are research postgraduate degrees offered by the Faculty of Medicine. The Master of Philosophy programme consists of formal course work and an approved scheme of research under supervision, and it takes 24 months for a full-time candidate and 36 months for a part-time candidate. The Doctor of Philosophy candidate is required to follow an approved course of study and research under supervision for a period not less than 36 months and not more than 60 months for a full-time candidate and 54 to 72 months in the case of a part-time candidate. The degree is awarded to the candidate whose research is of original contribution to knowledge and worthy of publication. Recently, the University Grants Committee has approved the introduction of a 4-year PhD programme for those candidates admitted without a research master degree.

The staff of the Faculty of Medicine has supervised many young and bright research workers who have made note-worthy contributions to medical research. In this issue, we talked to Mr Lee who is currently an MPhil student at the Department of Pathology, to present some of the joys and pains of a postgraduate research student. ☺

Interview with Mr Terence KW Lee (李建華), MPhil student

Q: *You have been awarded the Young Investigator Award and also the Journal of Hepatology and Gastroenterology Young Investigator Award and Best Paper Presentation in Liver. What was your work which led to these awards?*

A: My research project mainly focused on gene delivery using a receptor-mediated gene transfer system targeted to liver cancer cells. The development of gene therapy in Hong Kong is like a new-born child. It potentially provides an alternative treatment for the cancer. Since the technology used in the project is novel, it was considered highly, hence leading to the awards.

Q: *How do you plan to continue your work?*

A: The study is still in the early stage. Before putting the approach into clinical practice, systemic administration of the transporting vehicle through venous routes of animal models will be the next steps in our project.

Q: *What led to the success of your project?*

A: The University of Hong Kong has excellent research and teaching standards. In such nourishing environment, students can maximize their capabilities. Moreover, our university provides a strong link with other universities and institutions both worldwide and in Mainland China. Through the collaboration with top research center in China, I have acquired

up-to-date knowledge in the field of gene therapy. Here, I want to grasp this chance to thank my supervisor, Dr. Irene Ng of the Department of Pathology, for her invaluable supervision and guidance throughout my study.

Q: *Looking back on your 2 years as a postgraduate student at HKU, what were the hardest times that you went through?*

A: Since gene therapy is quite new in Hong Kong, I was not so acquainted with the experimental techniques and theory in the beginning. I had to endure the frustration when the experiments failed. It took me some time to grasp a better understanding of the theory and work out the experimental protocols.

Q: *On the other hand, what were the happiest times?*

A: In these two years I have had the chance to collaborate with a top research centre in China, attend conference in the United States and participate in various scientific presentations through which I trained myself and widened my scope. In addition, I have made a lot of friends in my Department and we exchanged a lot of scientific knowledge and gave encouragement to one another in difficult times.

Q: *What advice would you give to other postgraduate students in the Faculty?*

A: I am not qualified to give advice but I can share my experience with other postgraduate students. The world keeps on advancing and the development of science moves unexpectedly fast. In order to update our scientific knowledge, it is essential to read journals frequently. It is not good to just keep working like an ox. Instead, it is important to think before embarking on an experiment. When we encounter problems in our experiments, try to endure the frustration, find out the roots of the problems and analyse them thoughtfully. ☺

Comments of Dr Irene OL Ng (吳呂愛蓮) on "being his supervisor and how to assist him to these successful achievements"

It has been a pleasure for me to supervise Terence in his MPhil study. In fact, his previous HKICC Young Investigator Award, the present awards and his most recent award at the 17th Meeting of the International Academy of Tumor Marker Oncology have given much encouragement to him as well as to our research team. As usual, our experiments did not always run smoothly, and it has been a test of EQ for both of us to go through these challenges. Achievements could not be done without his hard work and perseverance. Meeting with him every week to discuss research progress and to iron out problems was very helpful. Last but not least, collaboration with a top research centre has also been crucial and beneficial in this study. ☺



Dr Irene Ng and
Mr Terence Lee

Exciting News

Seminar and Workshop on 'Medical Education Reform: The Hong Kong Experience'



Dr Alice Lam, Chairman of the University Grants Committee giving an opening address

The Faculty organized a Seminar and Workshop on 'Medical Education Reform: The Hong Kong Experience' from March 8 to 10, 2000 with the aim of sharing the experience of the Faculty in curriculum reform with medical educators in the region who had the same aspiration for high quality medical education. The seminar and workshop was well attended by 71 medical educators who were presidents, deans, associate deans or senior academics of 28 medical schools or faculties in the Mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Philippines and Korea.

The Opening Ceremony on March 8, 2000 was officiated by Dr Alice Lam (林李翹如), Chairman of the University Grants Committee. Leaders of the medical profession, representatives from the Department of Education, Science & Technology of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, and deans of other faculties also attended.

Fourteen members of the Faculty and several students gave presentations on various aspects of our medical curriculum. The participants were also given the chance to visit the teaching facilities, sit in PBL tutorials, go through the PBL process themselves with our Faculty members as tutors, and attend a PBL case writing workshop.

With the enthusiastic and open exchange of views, the event was a valuable experience that gave new insights to both the Faculty members and the participants in the endeavour for medical curriculum reform. ☺



Participants of the Seminar and Workshop

Donations

Mr Sun Chieh-yeh (孫建業) has donated HK\$4 million to establish the "Sun Chieh Yeh Research Foundation for Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery" for the purpose of promoting postgraduate education and research in hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery in the Department of Surgery.

Mrs Leung Tang Lai Ming (梁鄧麗明), wife of late Mr. Leung Kwok Tze (梁國治), has donated HK\$5.26 million to establish the "Leung Kwok Tze Research Fund" in support of molecular, cytogenetic and gene therapy research projects in the Department of Clinical Oncology. ☺

Recent Events

Hong Kong Surgical Forum - Winter 2000



The Hong Kong Surgical Forum - Winter 2000 was held on 15 - 16 January 2000 at Queen Mary Hospital, followed by the 6th Joint Shanghai / Hong Kong Surgical Convention at the Rui Jin Hospital, Shanghai Second Medical University on 17 - 18 January 2000.

Overseas speakers including Leigh Atkinson from University of Queensland, Arnold Coran from University of Michigan Medical School, Yuman Fong from Cornell University Medical College, Patrick Gullane from University of Toronto, James May from University of Sydney and Anthony Whittemore from Harvard Medical School, together with local experts, presented a total of twenty-six talks during the two-day meeting in Hong Kong. Topics covered general surgery, reconstructive surgery, vascular surgery, surgical oncology and new developments in surgery.

On Saturday, 15 January 2000, the 17th Digby Memorial Lecture entitled "Knife is not enough" was delivered by Professor Sir Harry SY Fang (方心讓). The Lecture was well attended by almost 200 participants and was concluded in deafening applause. ☺

Establishment of Asian Medical Education Association (AMEA)



Tree Planting Ceremony to denote the commitment of AMEA to provide best quality medical education (十年樹木，百年樹人)

One of the successful outcomes of the workshop was the establishment of an institution-based association of Asian medical schools entitled 'Asian Medical Education Association'. A meeting was held on March 7, 2000 with the participation of the representatives from 25 institutions in Asia that had indicated their support for such an association.

The aims of the association, as agreed by the participating representatives, are as follows:

1. To identify, recognize and enhance the characteristic features and strengths of Asian medical education;
2. To share information and experience about medical education; and
3. To strengthen and promote good pedagogy and research on medical education.

A Preparatory Committee comprising the 25 institutions members has been formed and the Faculty will serve as the Liaison Office and proceed with the preparatory work for the formation of the AMEA. Action is now being taken to draft the constitution as well as mission statement of the Association.

A press conference was held on March 12, 2000 to announce the formation of the AMEA to the public. Twelve representatives from some of the participating institutions joined the Dean in hosting the press conference and the preceding tree planting ceremony. ☺

Split-liver transplant

In a 19-hour marathon operation, the Liver Transplant Team at Queen Mary Hospital, led by Professor Fan Sheung-tat (范上達) of the Department of Surgery, performed the first split-liver transplant for 2 adult patients in Asia. The two recipients of one cadaveric liver were young adults in their 20s with end-stage liver disease and had been waiting for a cadaver graft for over 18 months. Both recovered uneventfully and were discharged 11 and 19 days after operation. The technique can potentially double the existing number of available liver grafts and partially relieve the problem of organ shortage in Hong Kong. ☺



Professor ST Fan and his team with recovered patients

Establishment of HK & Shanghai Mental Health Rehabilitation & Research Centre

The Department of Psychiatry and Shanghai Mental Health Centre (SMHC) have jointly established the Hong Kong & Shanghai Mental Health Rehabilitation & Research Centre for collaborative research and development of training programmes for psychiatrists and paramedical staff. The official opening ceremony was held on



Signing Ceremony attended by (second from left to fourth from right) Dr KY Mak, Dr V Wong, Prof F Lieh-Mak, Mr Jiang Long-hu, Prof Wang Shan-cheng and guests

8th of December, 1999. The Centre is located at SK Yee Mental Health Resource & Rehabilitation Centre in Hong Kong. Dr Vivian Wong (黃譚智媛), Hospital Chief Executive of Queen Mary Hospital, Mr Jiang Long-hu (姜龍虎), Deputy Director of SMHC, Professor Wang Shan-cheng (王善澄), Chief Psychiatrist of SMHC, Professor Felice Lieh-Mak (麥列菲菲), Head and Chair Professor of Psychiatry, Dr KY Mak (麥基恩), Honorary Associate Professor of Department of Psychiatry attended the ceremony. ☺

Recent Events

Digby Memorial Lecture



From left: Prof Paul Tam, Dr Lilian Leong, Prof Sir Harry Fang, Prof YK Cheung, Prof Grace Tang and Prof William Wei at the Digby Memorial Lecture

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery lecture theatre was filled with enthusiasts when Professor Sir Harry SY Fang (方心讓) took us all down the memory lane which witnessed the development of orthopaedic rehabilitation in Hong Kong.

Professor Fang charted the biography of Professor Digby - the longest serving expatriate professor in the Faculty of Medicine who was also concurrently Professor of Anatomy and of Clinical Surgery, and the University's First Professor of Surgery from 1913 to 1945.

Professor Fang traced the development of orthopaedic rehabilitation in Hong Kong and China. Starting with the rehabilitation of patients who became paralysed after vertebral tuberculosis infection, he outlined the progression of orthopaedic development in Hong Kong which was marked with monumental events such as the building of the first cripple children's home in Sandy Bay (which later became the Duchess of Kent Children's Orthopaedic Centre).

The white paper titled 'Integration of Disabled People - a United Effort' saw the government's introduction of the National Policy on Rehabilitation in 1977. Since then a statutory committee was set up and has helped to mobilize community resources and in the training of rehabilitation personnel. Internationally, Hong Kong has held Chairmanship of the Regional Rehabilitation International from 1972 to 1996 and in 1981 - the International Year of Disabled Persons - Professor Fang was elected World President. In all, Professor Fang has brought our attention to the fact that a successful rehabilitation programme rests on a concerted effort of the community, the government and the patients. ☺

The Visit of Sir Walter Bodmer

Sir Walter Bodmer, eminent geneticist and Principle of Hertford College, Oxford, was in Hong Kong recently, as the University's Kenneth Robinson Fellow. Among many important commitments, Sir Walter was Director-General of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and the second President of the Human Genome Organization (HUGO). Sir Walter has merited several scientific distinctions and has published on a range of mathematical, statistical, genetic and oncological topics. Despite his extensive involvement in many scientific organisations, Sir Walter maintains an active interest in research at their laboratory at the Institute of Molecular Medicine in Oxford.

His visit could be likened to a whirlwind of events, beginning with an impromptu invitation to a live radio interview, and followed by a series of lectures to medical students, seminars and meetings with University administrators, academics, students and reporters. His lecture to secondary school students was appreciated by the students, many of whom approached him later to ask questions. The Kenneth Robinson Public Lecture, Genes and People, held at the Rayson Huang Theatre, was attended by well-known figures, scientists and non-scientists. Sir Walter was Speaker at the Robert Black College Guest Night on March 23, an event attended by town and gown. His lecture, entitled The Public Understanding of Science, was a great success and the ensuing discussions far exceeded the length of his talk. ☺



Sir Walter Bodmer presenting a lecture on "Human Populations Genetics" to MBBS students

Alumni Update

The University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association is delighted to announce to members the launching of our web site. Members can locate the site at <http://www.hku.hk/facmed/alumni>. General information relating to the alumni would be available to both members and the public. A membership application form can be downloaded and you are encouraged to invite and persuade your classmates to join the big family. (Please refer to the insert for procedure in entering the web-site)

A password will be issued to each member and will be sent to you under confidential cover. Through this, members would then be able to gain access to privileged information. For a start, all the current members' names, addresses, phone numbers, fax and email addresses are available and arranged according to the year of graduation. Members can easily find your old classmate with whom you have lost contact. We encourage you to rekindle past relationship with your old buddies. After all, this is one of the major aims of setting up the Alumni.

Members would agree that we had a thoroughly enjoyable evening at the first gathering on 30th October 1999. Many of us, especially our seniors, were keen to share their experiences as a medical student with their more junior graduates. Lots of pictures were taken for

this memorable occasion. Over 100 pictures have now been scanned into our homepage. Members can browse through snapshots of the activities for the evening and recapture the events down our memory lane.

A "chat corner" is being created and members are encouraged to take part and raise any questions and suggestions relating to the Alumni. Depending on the nature of the questions, these will be answered as soon as possible.

We also understand medical graduates of various years might have set up their own homepage. We would appeal to members to link or amalgamate their homepages with that of the Alumni's. Dr Wong Chun-por (王春波) will be the coordinator for this purpose. Kindly contact him through cpwong@ha.org.hk.

We are delighted to announce to graduates that we have postponed our deadline on waiving the entrance fee as members of the University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association to 30th October 2000. For those who have not submitted their application, kindly act now. Application form can be easily obtained through our web site at <http://www.hku.hk/facmed/alumni>. ☺

Congratulations to...

Professor Raymond HS Liang (梁憲孫) for being promoted to Personal Professor in the Department of Medicine.

Professor Yuen Kwok-yung (袁國勇) for being promoted to Personal Professor in the Department of Microbiology.

Dr Louis WC Chow (周永昌) and Dr Maria P Wong (王碧) for being promoted to Associate Professors in Department of Surgery and Pathology respectively.

Dr DA Higgins for being elected as the Head of the Department of Pathology from December 1, 1999 to November 30, 2002.

Professor Lam Tai-hing (林大慶) for being elected as the Head of the Department of Community Medicine from February 29, 2000 to February 28, 2003; and for being appointed by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR Government to be a member of the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee (HMDAC) (健康與醫務發展諮詢委員會).

Professor Wong Tak-ming (黃德明) for being elected as the Head of the Department of Physiology from April, 2000 to April, 2003.

Professor Cho Chi-hin (曹之憲) for being one of the three recipients of

Hello & Goodbye

Welcome to the Faculty!!

Dr Anne E Greer, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology
Originally from Ireland I attended undergraduate medical school at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. I moved to Hong Kong in 1995 and after a brief time at Caritas Medical Centre joined the anaesthetic department at QMH. I took up my appointment with the University of Hong Kong in February 2000. My areas of interest include neurosurgical anaesthesia and having spent some time in obstetrics and gynaecology before coming to Hong Kong I am interested in anaesthesia related to this specialty.

Dr Zhang Wei-yang (張維揚), PhD

I am a new Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Medicine. I came from the National Institutes of Health, USA. My major research interests are pathogenic mechanism and molecular genetics of diabetic atherosclerosis.

the 1999-2000 Outstanding Research Supervisor Award of the University.

Professor Kathy SE Cheah (謝賞恩) and Professor William I Wei (韋霖) for being awarded as two of the nine recipients for the 1999 Outstanding Researcher Award of the University.

Professor Daniel TM Chan (陳德茂) and Dr Lan Hui-yao (藍輝耀) for being awarded as two of the ten recipients for the 1999 Outstanding Young Researcher Award of the University.

Dr MR Chandra Rodrigo for being awarded the BS Perera Gold Medal for the BS Perera Oration on "My contributions to Sedation and Anaesthesia in Dentistry" at the 15th Annual Scientific Sessions of the College of Anaesthesiologists of Sri Lanka in 1999.

Dr Philip SL Beh (馬宜立) for being appointed as a member of the Committee of the Forensic Pathology Secretariat for the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Professor Chan Li-chong (陳立昌) for being admitted to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians, London. ☺

Goodbye & Best Wishes!!

Retiring:

Professor SF Pang (彭樹勳), former head of Department of Physiology: an international expert in pineal gland and melatonin, he has established a productive program on basic and applied research in the field over the past 25 years



Resigned:

Dr KN Chan (陳國寧)

Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatrics

Dr W Cheng (鄭偉)

Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery

Mr KC Chuk (祝啟祥)

Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing Studies

Dr D Opstelten (戴詠娜)

Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry

Forthcoming Events

Professor Joan LF Shaver's Visit: To Present Her Research & Consult Staff On Women's Health & Leadership

Date : May 10 - 16, 2000
Venue : Block B, Nurses Quarter, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Professor PL Sullivan Tel: 2819 2621

Molecular Laboratory Research Course for Clinical Endocrinologists

Date : May 18 - 21, 2000
Venue : Li Fan Shu Building and Estates Office Building, Sassoon Road, Hong Kong
Information : Dr PT Cheung, Dept of Paediatrics Tel: 2855 4485 Fax: 2855 1523
Email: ptcheung@hkucc.hku.hk

7th Meeting of the Centre of Human Development and Birth Defects

Date : May 27, 2000
Venue : Department of Paediatrics, 1/F, New Clinical Building, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Dr SY Chan, Department of Paediatrics Tel: 2855 4076

Symposium on Molecular Medicine for Practising Clinicians

Date : May 21, 2000
Venue : Room 301B, HK Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Information : Dr PT Cheung, Dept of Paediatrics Tel: 2855 4485 Fax: 2855 1523
Email: ptcheung@hkucc.hku.hk

June Symposium on Clinical Trial Central Laboratory Services

Date : June 3, 2000
Venue : Underground Lecture Theatre II, LG1, New Clinical Building, Queen Mary Hospital
Information : Miss Josephine Yuen, Mr MC Cheng Tel: 2855 4669

University Program 2000: Core Curriculum in Cardiology

Date : July 15 - 16, 2000
Venue : Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Information : Dr Kathy Lee, Dept of Medicine Tel: 2855 3633 E-mail: klflee@hku.hk

Hong Kong Surgical Forum (Joint with Hong Kong Medical Forum)

Date : July 1 - 2, 2000
Venue : HK Convention & Exhibition Centre, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Information : Forum Secretary Tel: 2818 0232 / 2855 4235 Fax: 2818 1186
E-mail: mededcon@hku.hk Web-site: <http://www/hku/hk/surgery>

Hong Kong Medical Forum (HKMF)

Date : July 1 & 2, 2000
Venue : HK Convention & Exhibition Centre, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Information : Ms Denise Yu Tel: 2855 4607

Post HKMF 2000 - Shanghai Conference

Date : July 3 & 4, 2000
Venue : Shanghai, PRC
Information : Ms Denise Yu Tel: 2855 4607

Advanced Trauma Life Support Student Course

(May 15 - 17, 19 - 21 & June 28 - 30, 2000)

Workshop on Basic Laparoscopy for Theatre Nurse (June 3 & 4, 2000)

Advanced Course in Laparoscopy for Theatre Nurse (June 10 - 11 & 17 - 18, 2000)

Venue : C Wing, 3/F, Main Block, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Mr Lobo Yau, Department of Surgery Tel: 2855 4905 Fax: 2819 3416

Our Views...

The goal of this newsletter is to foster and enhance the awareness of the activities in the Faculty of Medicine among Faculty members, alumni, relevant external institutions and individuals. This newsletter is published three times a year and sent free to all registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong. It is also sent to overseas Medical Schools and all graduates of the Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong. Please forward all correspondence to The Editor, Medical Faculty News, Faculty of Medicine, 1/F, Patrick Manson Building (North Wing), 7 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong. Fax: (852) 2974-0678, E-mail: whchow@hkucc.hku.hk

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Miss Diana MW Liu (廖曼華)

Medical Faculty News



Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

August 2000

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch and up to date.

Volume 5 Issue 2

Spotlight on Department of Psychiatry

Holistic Approach To Psychiatry Across the Life-span

The Department was set up in 1970. It started small with one professor, one lecturer and two medical officers looking after fifteen beds and delivering ten hours of lectures to undergraduate medical students.

Growth was slow but steady.

Thirty years later the vision of a holistic approach to psychiatry across the life-span has been achieved in teaching, research and service delivery.

The Department has nine full-time academic staff, two part-time staff and twenty honorary staff. There are two consultants, one senior medical officer and nine medical officers. The number of beds has increased to eighty-four. In addition, there is a full complement of community-based care for outpatients, day patients and outreach services to homes for the elderly, halfway houses and sheltered workshops.

In the new curriculum, psychiatry has assumed an active role. The full-time clerkship will last for eight weeks. During this rotation, students will learn about the diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders in different settings including general practice. Experience in helping non-psychiatric patients deal with their illness will be strengthened.

The new curriculum has also provided the Department with the opportunity to coordinate the teaching of law and ethics and clinical interpersonal skills.

Child and adolescent psychiatry is actively involved in a variety of research projects. The genetics of attention deficit disorder is conducted with the University of San Francisco. The Unit is also completing a research project with Columbia University on localisation of a clinical diagnostic instrument for child psychiatric disorders. The team is also studying cost-effective ways to train parents in child management. Other on-going projects on suicide and child sexual abuse are carried out in collaboration with Hospital Authority child psychiatrists, welfare agencies, the Coroner's office and the police.

For undergraduate medical students, the format of teaching includes both lectures and clinical attachment during clerkship. The team is also involved in the training of psychiatrists, nursing, social work and clinical psychology students.

The services include in-patient, day patient and community-based consultations at St. James Settlement and Special Education Department. In all service provisions and teaching, the team approach is used. The team consists of a consultant in child psychiatry, nurse specialist, special school teachers, social worker and a clinical psychologist.

General adult psychiatry takes up a significant portion of the Department's research, teaching and service activities. Since schizophrenic disorder forms the bulk of the patient population, research activities are focused in this area. The largest team is engaged in studying the neuropsychological aspects of the disorder. A large prospective follow-up study of first onset schizophrenia began last year. The genetics of schizophrenia is being looked into. This project is being done in collaboration with the Institute of Psychiatry in London. MRI studies on schizophrenics are also being carried out and the data obtained will be compared with those obtained at the Institute of Psychiatry, London. Pre- and post-treatment effects of the atypical antipsychotics are being studied with the use of SPECT. In



Departmental Photograph



Parent training session: Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Unit



In search of the schizophrenia genetic loci

collaboration with the Pasteur Institute, the Department is in the course of looking into the link between the Borna Virus and schizophrenia. The sample of schizophrenics compared to normal subjects will be the largest ever studied.

It may seem that, as far as schizophrenia is concerned, the Department is only focusing on the biological aspects. This, however, does not apply to teaching and service provision. In service provisions, a team work approach is used. The psychoeducation of families is a routine part of treatment. Many discharged patients are visited by either a social worker or a community psychiatric nurse. There is a close working relationship with NGOs who manage halfway houses, sheltered workshops and day activity centres. All trainees and students are required to pay home visits with the relevant staff. Clinical rounds are attended by all members of the team during which the students can observe how a closely knit team works in patient management.

Psychiatric rehabilitation is well developed and this is reflected in the low readmission rate, high employment, short average length of stay and low default rate. The Department has established, with donations from the S.K. Yee Foundation, the best patient clubhouse in Asia. The day patient facilities are provided along this line. Research into the cost-effectiveness of case management and patient needs have been conducted. The Department also runs a diploma course in psychiatric rehabilitation at SPACE.

Service provision for old age psychiatry is also based on a team approach. With facilities for in-patient, outpatient, day and outreach care, the Department's day care unit is the first of its kind in Hong Kong. Students gain experience in this area through clinical attachment.

The Medical Psychology Unit is a fairly independent entity under the umbrella of the Department. Most of the postgraduate students have chosen this field of study. The Unit provides psychological services for the entire hospital. The organisational, supervision and training model was first developed by the Unit and this model has since been adapted by the Hospital Authority.

Medical psychology covers a large field since many physically ill patients also have psychological problems and the individual's behaviour in turn can lead to disease or a deterioration of existing illness. Research into this interphase include psychological aspects of AIDs, patients with low back pain, spinal injury, cancer, thalassemia, diabetes mellitus and cardiac arrhythmias. The use of Qi-Gong in the treatment of cancer is also being studied.

The Department was a pioneer in the teaching of and research on human sexuality. Many of the teaching materials used for public education and schools were developed with the help from the Department's expertise. The large scale survey on Chinese sexual behavior and attitude was done in collaboration with the Department. The study led to the publication of a book which has been called the Kinsey report of China.

The Department has grown in size, increased its depth and broadened its perspective. It will continue to build on its strength.



Patient clubhouse



Sex therapy by Professor ML Ng

by Professor F Lieh-Mak (麥列菲菲)

Dean's Message

I am delighted that our Faculty has been awarded the largest share of the University's Research Grants Council grant allocation of HK\$93 million this year, amounting to HK\$34.1 million for 43 projects. Due to the continuous hard work of the Faculty members, the number of funded projects and the amount of funding have steadily increased for the past three consecutive years.

To nurture research talents, our Faculty encourages young assistant professors and associate professors to conduct high-quality projects. We are happy to report that 29 assistant professors and associate professors have been able to assume the principal investigator role since 1999.

In order to promote research culture amongst our undergraduate students, the Master of Research in Medicine (MRes[Med]) has been introduced. This is a one-year programme for MBBS students to take after successful completion of the Year 3 medical curriculum. In 2000, 4 students have enrolled in this study programme undertaking research in:

- 1) cholesterol and diabetes;
- 2) hypertension;
- 3) occurrence of Hepatitis B surface antigen after liver transplant; and
- 4) new psychological and pharmacological therapies for schizophrenia.

Our Faculty will continue to strive for excellence in research to benefit the Community.



Professional Pursuit

Tomorrow's Doctors

On completion of their internship in June 2000, the M.B.,B.S. graduates of 1999 applied for the posts of medical officers or equivalent jobs at the Hospital Authority, Department of Health, Medical Faculty and other institutions. Majority of these interns (nearly 90%) preferred to take up the Hospital Authority appointments. Distribution of their posting is as follows:

Hospital Authority	115
Private Practice	5
Department of Health	3
Family Planning Association	3
Faculty of Medicine	2
Private Hospital	1
Locum in Private Practice	1
	130



Enjoying the last days of internship!

First Intake of Students under the Master of Research in Medicine Programme

Four current M.B.,B.S. students, who have completed Year 3 of the medical curriculum, have enrolled in the Master of Research in Medicine (MRes[Med]) programme which has been launched in this academic year. They are Sammy PL Chen (陳柏林), James TK Fung (馮德熉), Lam Tai-chung (林泰忠) and Gregory KL Mak (麥榮諾).

Sammy will be under the principal supervision of Dr Kathryn CB Tan (陳俊明), and Tai Chung under Dr Bernard MY Cheung (張文勇) in the Department of Medicine, whereas James and Gregory will pursue the research study under the principal supervision of Professor CM Lo (盧寵茂) (Surgery) and Professor Peter WH Lee (李永浩) (Psychiatry) respectively.

The candidates have already commenced their studies in July 2000. They are required to undertake a minimum of 408 hours of prescribed work comprising a supervised research project, hands-on training in research skills, and relevant coursework.



The first intake of MRes (Med) candidates.

Exciting News

Young Investigator Scholar Award

Dr Hu Ying-chuan (胡穎川), a graduate student from Department of Pathology, was awarded the Young Investigator Scholar Award in recognition of promising cancer research at the American Association for Cancer Research Congress, San Francisco, in April 2000.



Research Grant Council - Competitive Earmarked Research Grant (CERG) for 2000 - 2001

The Research Grant Council announced its decision on the annual Competitive Earmarked Research Grant (CERG) exercise for 2000 - 2001 on June 30, 2000. For the fourth consecutive year, the University has obtained the largest single share (\$93.4M) of the allocated grants (\$360M in total). The Faculty of Medicine again has the largest number of funded projects (43) and the largest share of total funding (\$34.1M) among all Faculties in the HKU.



List of Projects in the Faculty of Medicine Supported by RGC

Project Title	Principal Investigator	Fund Awarded (HK\$)
Effects of male accessory sex gland secretions on the oxidative stress, functional competence and genomic integrity of hamster spermatozoa	Dr. W.S. O	650,000
Molecular control of Inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate receptors (IP3R) in cellular models of Alzheimer's disease	Professor J. Hugon	763,200
The role of androgens in breast carcinogenesis	Professor Y.C. Wong	650,000
Effect of delayed transplantation of a peripheral nerve (PN) graft on motoneuron survival and regeneration after spinal root avulsion	Dr. W.T. Wu	763,200
Defining molecular mechanisms underlying growth plate abnormalities in Schmid metaphyseal chondrodysplasia by targeted mutagenesis in mice	Dr. D. Chan	650,000
Molecular genetic analysis of unconventional myosin 5b (Myo5b): its function and interplay with myosin 5a (Myo5a)	Dr. J.D. Huang	763,200
Structural NADP+, subunit interaction and other stability determinants in human glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) and deficient variants	Dr. V.M.S. Lam	763,200
Functional analysis of the morphogenetic role of type IIA procollagen during mouse development by conditional tissue-specific gene inactivation	Professor K.S.E. Cheah	1,766,400
Studying the roles of endophilins, a family of SH3 domain containing proteins, in mouse development by gene targeting	Dr. M.H. Sham	650,000
Post-traumatic axonal regeneration in glycosaminoglycan-modified spinal cord environments	Dr. D.K.Y. Shum	763,200
Isolation of overexpressed genes within an amplified region at 1q12-q22 in hepatocellular carcinoma	Dr. X.Y. Guan	763,200
Public perception and health: what value do people give to health and to features of modern life which affect it?	Dr. R. Fielding	650,000
The role of adrenomedullin in inflammation	Dr. B.M.Y. Cheung	763,200
Estrogenic modulation of human catecholamine-O-methyltransferase (COMT): its relevance in Parkinson's disease (PD)	Dr. S.L. Ho	655,200
Study of the mechanisms of vascular homeostasis in obstructive sleep apnoea	Professor M.S.M. Ip	696,000
Role of macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) in renal allograft rejection	Dr. H.Y. Lan	835,200
Role of nitric oxide synthase and cyclooxygenase2 in angiogenesis after acute myocardial infarction - therapeutic implication by L-arginine	Professor C.P. Lau	800,400
Mechanism of IgA-induced glomerular and tubulointerstitial injury: role of macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF)	Mr.J.C.K. Leung	800,400
The effects of Helicobacter pylori products on human respiratory mucosa in vitro	Dr. K.W.T. Tsang	763,200
B cell apoptosis in systemic lupus erythematosus	Dr. A.Y.Y. Wu	650,000
Airway remodeling in bronchiectasis: the role of matrix metalloproteinases (MMP8, MMP9) and neutrophil elastase	Dr. L. Zheng	725,490
The role of epidermal cooling in improving the outcome of laser therapy in the treatment of Nevus of Ota	Dr. H.H.L. Chan	650,000
Identification and characterization of cellular targets for adenovirus E4Orf6 protein	Dr. N.N.T. Chen	763,200
EBV as targets of immune intervention of NPC	Professor M.H. Ng	1,036,800
The identification and characterization of Aspergillus fumigatus antigen(s) for the rapid diagnosis of invasive aspergillosis	Professor K.Y. Yuen	763,200
Placental apoptotic and proliferative activities and infant outcome in complicated pregnancies - the relationship with insulin-like growth factor-I, insulin-like growth factor binding proteins, and placental insulin-like growth factor expression	Dr. T.T.H. Lao	763,200
The effect of embryos on the gene expression of mouse oviduct in the preimplantation period	Dr. C.K.F. Lee	763,200
Understanding impaired implantation in IVF cycles with high serum oestradiol levels	Dr. E.H.Y. Ng	629,200
Gradual scoliosis correction by use of a superelastic alloy	Dr. K.M.C. Cheung	650,000
Development of noval artificial finger joints	Professor S.P. Chow	895,200
Differential expression of genes in gestational trophoblastic diseases	Dr. A.N.Y. Cheung	731,400
Evolution of the lymphocyte surface: identification and characterization of duck T cell xenoantigens	Dr. D.A. Higgins	763,200
Genetic instability in early onset colorectal cancer in Hong Kong Chinese	Dr. S.Y. Leung	835,200
Cyclooxygenase-2 in inflammatory and fibrotic liver disease	Professor A.A. Nanji	1,363,900
Detection of genetic alterations on chromosome 8 in liver cancer by high-throughput fluorescent. In-situ hybridization on tissue microarrays and by deletion mapping	Dr. I.O.L. Ng	763,200
Regulation of monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) expression in atherosclerosis	Dr. K. O	763,200
Probing the mechanisms of magnesium tanshinoate B: inhibition on stress-activated protein kinase cascade in the ischaemic/reperfused heart	Dr. Y.L. Siow	763,200
Mechanism of plastic changes in vestibulo-cardiovascular interaction following prolonged otolith stimulation	Professor Y.S. Chan	1,036,800
Air pollutants and nasal congestion	Dr. M.A.K.Y. Lung	763,200
Ca2+ and contractile responses to k-opioid receptor stimulation in the heart following chronic hypoxia - signaling mechanisms and receptor function	Professor T.M. Wong	763,200
Defining the role of RET receptor tyrosine kinase in enteric neurogenesis	Dr. V.C.H. Lui	650,000
Right-sided hepatectomy for hepatocellular carcinoma by anterior approach - a prospective randomized trial	Professor S.T. Fan	905,940
Multiple molecular approaches for elucidating the multigenic nature of hirschsprung's disease in Chinese patients	Professor P.K.H. Tam	835,200

Recent Events

Molecular Laboratory Research Course for Clinical Endocrinologists

To face the challenge of what the human genome project is bringing to the Medical World, the Centre of Endocrinology and Diabetes had made a successful and proactive move in bringing together experts in molecular medicine and keen clinical endocrinologists from the Asia-Pacific region to share their quest of applying the advances in genome research to clinical applications. The Molecular Laboratory Research Course held in May was well attended by 44 endocrinologists from 9 different Asia-Pacific countries and 9 local hospitals. The course was conducted by fellows of the Centre together with 3 renowned overseas clinician-scientists. The participants were able to perform practical molecular tests under guidance and were further exposed to other state-of-the-art tools through practical demonstrations. Responses from the participants had been encouragingly positive and most agreed that the course was timely, essential and fundamental. In addition, a one-day symposium on Molecular Medicine for the Practicing Clinicians was held on May 21, 2000 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre to keep local clinicians updated on molecular medicine in the new millennium. 246 local and overseas clinicians and scientists participated in this successful and informative symposium.



A group photo of the speakers and the course attendants

The 4th Scientific Congress of University Surgeons of Asia, Singapore



University Surgeons of Asia Congress at Singapore.

A delegation consisting of Professor John Wong (黃健靈), Professor H Saing and Dr NG Patil participated in the 4th Scientific Congress of University Surgeons of Asia held in Singapore on 31 May and 1 June, 2000. The theme of

the congress was "Challenges to the University Surgeons in the New Millennium". All our speakers highlighted the experience we have gained in the implementation of New Medical Curriculum. Since some of the medical schools in the region are also in process of adapting to new medical curriculum or have started its implementation in the last two years, our presentations were well received and aroused both formal and informal discussions.

Visit to National Yang-Ming University, Taipei

Our Faculty was invited by National Yang-Ming University School of Medicine to actively participate in, facilitate and conduct workshops on Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and medical curriculum reform.

The Workshop was held on weekend of June 10-11, 2000. Our team consisted of Professor Grace WK Tang (鄧惠瓊) (Dean), Professor A Dixon, Professor Lam Tai-hing (林大慶) and Dr NG Patil. Our team gave lectures and tutorials which were fol-



Invited speakers and facilitators at Yang-Ming University Medical School workshop

lowed by three workshops on PBL, curriculum design and implementation.

Our presentation, based on our experience at medical curriculum reform, was well received and appreciated. We were equally impressed by the enthusiasm and professionalism of Yang-Ming Group and their participants. The Dean and staff of Yang-Ming Medical Faculty are keen to foster collaboration with our institution, for example, organise visits to our Faculty to observe PBL tutorials.

First Joint Xian/Hong Kong Surgical Convention



Prof John Wong presents a souvenir to Prof Su Bo, President, FMMU at the Opening Ceremony

This year, the Department of Surgery of the University of Hong Kong co-organised the 1st Joint Xian/Hong Kong Surgical Convention with the Fourth Military Medical University (FMMU) in Xian. The Convention was held on July 3-4, 2000 at the FMMU in China.

The two-day meeting was met with great success. A total of 20 talks were delivered which included topics like Gastrointestinal, Thoracic & Cardiovascular, Head & Neck, Trauma, Orthopaedics, Hepatobiliary, Neurosurgery, and Burn & Plastic Surgery. Besides the Hong Kong and Mainland China participants, there were also a number of invited overseas speakers including Professor Michael Bailey from the University of Surrey, Professor David Hoyt from the University of California San Diego Medical Center, Professor Michael Longaker from the New York University, Professor Michael Sarr from the Mayo Clinic, Professor Robert Thomas from the University of Melbourne and Professor Gregory Wolf from the University of Michigan.

Visits to the FMMU and its affiliated hospitals were also arranged. The convention elicited favourable responses and comments from all the participants.



Enthusiastic discussion from the floor

Infectious Diseases Courses and Postgraduate Diploma Programme

The Infectious Diseases Courses and Postgraduate Diploma Programme were launched in 1998 to provide a formal and comprehensive training programme in infectious diseases in Hong Kong. The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong took the lead to facilitate infectious disease training



Presentation given by Prof KY Yuen, the Academic Director of the Centre of Infection.

with its strength in clinical service and research in this field. The Programme consists of six two-day courses of lectures spanning over a period of two years, addressing clinically important problems and providing practical information on their management. While interested candidates can take individual courses as they wish, diplomates will go through a more thorough training with infectious disease rounds, clinical consultations, literature reviews and research projects. The Programme was well received by clinicians from all specialties. Participants were continuously assessed throughout the courses and the 5 candidates who scored the highest marks were awarded the Best Achievers' Award.

Students' Column

Summer Broadening Course



Group photo of participants with the Dean and Faculty members

The two-week Summer Broadening Course organised by the Faculty of Medicine for Form 6 students ended smoothly on July 28, 2000. This course is a new attempt. In the past, the Faculty organised short orientation courses to prospective medical students to provide them with a brief idea about the medical profession. With the introduction of this Summer Broadening Course, prospective students will now have a clearer picture of the profession. This programme also enables students to learn about different aspects of university life which, to many of them, was a novel and precious experience.

Ten M.B.,B.S. Year 2 students joined the course as voluntary mentors. They assisted the course students in handling the Problem-Based Learning cases and shared their own learning experiences, such as ways of managing their first year of study in the University. Some course students had the chance of residing in halls.

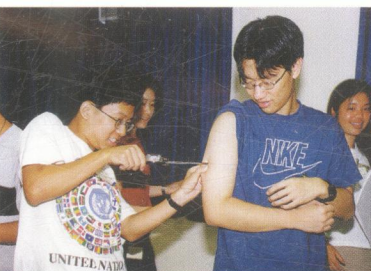
Most of the course students found the new medical curriculum very interesting. Moreover, they welcomed the new method of learning which, stimulated their interest in learning and motivation for study. To them, self-initiated study was a more effective way of training. However, they found the medical terms and the lecture notes difficult to understand.

One of the students, Ko Hui-fai, said that this course was an eye-opener that allowed him to see the importance of teamwork where students helped one another in their studies. The new environment also provided an opportunity for them to get acquainted with one another. This type of training improved their communication skills. Another student, Shiobhon Luk, was impressed by the self-discipline demonstrated by the university students. She also discovered that, as a university student, one has to be self-motivated in learning and in acquiring knowledge. She found interaction with students and people from diverse backgrounds challenging and helpful in sharpening her own interpersonal skills.

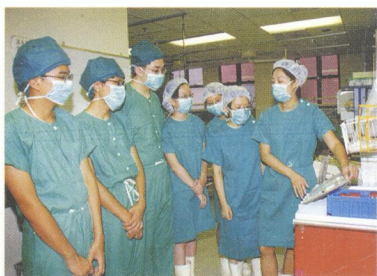
In conclusion, the course was beneficial. It provided a chance for the Form 6 students to gain a better understanding of the medical



Touring a ward



Students enjoy practising clinical skills



At the operation theatre

profession and to get an idea of the new curriculum, which otherwise would not have been possible through their own school. The only problem was that most of them complained about the food in Bayview.....

By David C Lung (龍振邦), MBBS II

The student mentors of the Summer Broadening Course were also interviewed to express their views of this activity.

The mentors thought that the F.6 students participated in the programme were really smart, even smarter than some of them when their performance in foundation course of Year 1 curriculum was compared. However, some mentors found that the participants could not adapt to the 'Problem-Based Learning' (PBL) immediately, especially in the first PBL case 'Sammy Chu', which is about a man suffering from heat exhaustion after heavy exercise. The situation was much better in the second PBL case.

The mentors found that the participants "enjoyed" themselves with the new way of learning. At the end of the course, the opinion of the participants on PBL was quite divided. Some of them loved this way of learning and this "strengthened" the decision on their choice of medical school.

However, some others mentioned that they "realised" the situation and would take this into consideration when making the choice later on. The mentors maintained that they tried to convey the real picture to the participants about the life in Sassoon Road.

The mentors also found this programme an enjoyable experience. It was the first time they could change seats with their teachers and become the mediators in the PBL tutorials. The most precious gain was the realisation of how their tutors could facilitate and stimulate students' participation and discussion in PBL session. This was another brand new "PBL" experience for them.

By James TK Fung (馮德焜), MRes(Med)



Clinical skills demonstration by a mentor



Experience the Problem-based Learning

Health Exercise for All Campaign

Eighteen Year 4 M.B.,B.S. students and sixteen Year 1 BNursing students represented the Faculty of Medicine to participate in the "Health Exercise for All Campaign", organised by the Department of Health on April 30, 2000. They were involved in providing health advice regarding physical activities. Their efforts were well appreciated by both the public and the organiser.



Dr Margaret Chan, Director of Health, presents a souvenir to the student representative.

Alumni Update

HKUMAA Annual General Meeting

The Hong Kong University Medical Alumni Association Ltd (HKUMAA) held its first Annual General Meeting on June 22, 2000 evening at Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. The event started with a warm tea reception where members found it a golden chance to chat with their old friends. There were more than twenty members attended the meeting.



Group photo at HKUMAA's Annual General Meeting

Focuses of the meeting were placed in areas of achievement; assistance offered to medical graduates in job-finding; recreational activities held last year; setting up of the Alumni webpage; application of a formal charity status; the new Medical Complex and its designated Alumni Floor; and the setting up of a taskforce for ad hoc medical issues.

The President was glad to announce that the Alumni have successfully recruited more than 500 members and that registration fee for new members will be waived until October 2000. It was also addressed that with the Alumni's assistance, all medical students were able to find a job.

Executive members including Professor Rosamond LC Wong (黃令翠) and Professor Leung Nai-kong (梁乃江) were working on the details of floor planning, fixture and fittings and catering service for the designated floor for Alumni activities. There will be car-parking facilities for Alumni members in the new Medical Complex.

To enhance friendship amongst members, the Alumni Association will organise a series of social activities, including a golf tournament and a cruise.

Achievements

The following alumni were accorded an honour or award in the HKSAR 2000 Honours List:

Professor Lee Shiu-hung (李紹鴻), SBS, JP 58' Graduate

Professor Lee was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star.

Although having retired from the Hong Kong Government in 1994 as Director of Health, Professor Lee has never ceased to contribute to public health and community services over a wide range of areas. He was the Chairman of the Hong Kong Council on Smoking & Health and the Optometrists Board. He is currently the chairman of the Action Committee Against Narcotics and the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board as well as a member of the Scientific Committee of the Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

Professor Lee was actively involved in promoting the "Healthy Cities" and "Health Promoting Schools" projects in Hong Kong. These campaigns received strong support from the community, government, schools and District Councils. In addition, he was the founding president of the Hong Kong Society for Infectious Diseases, the Hong Kong Epidemiological Association and the Hong Kong Health Education & Health Promotion Foundation. He continues to serve as advisers to many non-government organisations on various community services including elderly, drug abuse, community rehabilitation, community health, and health promotion.

When asked about his feeling of the award, Professor Lee said "My family, colleagues and I were all delighted, but the most important thing was that the award itself was a recognition by the government of the importance of public health in contributing to the health, social and economic development."



Professor Leung Nai-kong (梁乃江), BBS, MBE, JP 66' Graduate

Professor Leung was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star. It is the recognition of his dedicated and meritorious services in the medical profession and valuable contribution to the community. Professor Leung is closely associated with the Faculty: he is an Honorary Clinical Associate Professor of the Department of Paediatrics, and member of the Executive Committee of the University of Hong

Kong Medical Alumni Association. He has been actively involved in the education and training of doctors, and is currently the President of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians. He has served on numerous boards, councils, and professional and community organisations, covering the fields of education, child health, public health, hospital services, rehabilitation and AIDS. His other awards and honours include MBE in 1995 and outstanding Paediatrician of Asia in 2000.

Professor Leung is very pleased with the award and attributes his success to the guidance and support from his teachers, friends and colleagues throughout the years, and therefore he wishes to share the honour and joy with them. Professor Leung has also been elected as the Outstanding Paediatrician of Asia this year. Now that he has retired from Princess Margaret Hospital, he will spend more time on the training and professional development of medical students and doctors.



Dr Ng Wai-tat (吳偉達), MH 74' Graduate

Dr Ng was awarded the Medal of Honour.

"By a twist of fate, the routine life in a 'government' institution, in which I had settled for many years, was changed as I was transferred to a then newly converted community general hospital. It was some years back. Since then, I have started working in a hospital right in the heart of the bustling town. The Board of Directors of the Hospital, basically a charitable organisation, has upheld a remarkable tradition of maintaining a close liaison with locals from all walks of life. Given an obsessive character, I always exerted my utmost towards the creation of a friendly/homely hospital, with activities penetrating into our neighbours, far and near. Frequently, the efforts turned out to be gratifying experiences - though not without setbacks. The benevolent nature of my career makes my daily routine so much more fulfilling and enjoyable. Being among the privileged few on the honour list at the dawn of a new millennium adds yet another memorable moments in my life."



Dr So Kwan-tong (蘇鈞堂) 78' Graduate

Dr. So was awarded the Chief Executive's Commendation for Community Service.

"It was a total surprise to me when I learned that I was given the award of 'Chief Executive's Commendation for Community Service', and that it was related to my work in child abuse. I must take this opportunity to thank all the nice people or group of people who have helped me earn this award. My vote of thanks goes to Dr Lillian Ko (高揚揚) who has introduced me to the problem of child abuse and neglect; the Tuen Mun District Committee on Child Abuse which has accepted me as a member and tolerated my stubbornness. I must confess that I have enjoyed working with the talented and dedicated social workers, police, teachers, headmasters, psychologists and psychiatrists in the Committee. I would also like to thank my colleagues in Tuen Mun Hospital for all the support they have given me in delivering talks to the parents and teachers in the community and in running a department that takes child protection seriously. Last but not the least, I would like to thank my wife Rebecca, my children Emily and Wilfred for giving me the support and inspiration throughout the years."



(We are thankful for the passages provided by the above alumni)

Professor Ma Ho-kei (馬鍾可璣), OBE, CBE, JP 58' graduate

Professor Ma was awarded Honorary Fellowship Award of the American College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists in 2000. The award acknowledges Professor Ma's contribution in women's health care in the U.S. and worldwide.



Hello & Goodbye

Welcome to the Faculty

Dr Henry HL Chan (陳衍里), Associate Professor, Department of Medicine and Chief of Dermatology: "I obtained my medical degree from the University of London and gained further postgraduate training while working in London Charing Cross Hospital, Leicester group of teaching hospitals and the St John's Institute of Dermatology. In 1995, I took up the inaugural post of Assistant Professor and later Associate Professor in Dermatology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. To further my academic and research interest, I moved over to this institution in March 2000 as the Inaugural Associate Professor in Dermatology. I am actively involved in local professional activities and is a council member of the Hong Kong Society of Dermatology and Venereology, Hong Kong Institute of Allergy, British Medical Association (HK Branch) and the Federation of Medical Societies. I am the Hon. Secretary of the Asian Dermatological Association, Fellow of the American Society of Laser Surgery and American Society of Investigative Dermatology. My research interests include laser surgery and paediatric dermatology."

Dr Grace Y Wong (黃凝), Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology: "After studying Pharmacy for one year at the University of British Columbia, Canada, I entered the medical school of the University of Hong Kong and received my MBBS degree in 1999. I then joined the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology as a Clinical Assistant Professor since July 2000 immediately after my internship."



Dr Alan KS Chiang (蔣國誠), MBChB, PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatrics. I graduated from the Medical School at the University of Manchester, England. After the internship, I joined the Department of Paediatrics of HKU where I completed my Paediatric residency. I was then engaged in full-time research study at the Department of Pathology of HKU, during which I obtained the PhD degree. I rejoined the Department



of Paediatrics in 1998 to complete the fellowship training. My research interests are in the oncogenic mechanisms of Epstein-Barr virus and in the immunological control of malignancies.



Dr Brain HY Chung (鍾佩言), Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatrics. I am a graduate of Faculty of Medicine, the University Hong Kong in the year of 1999. I have chosen Paediatrics because I love children. I am grateful of having the opportunity to work in the University Paediatrics Unit where everyone practises holistic patient care and evidence-based medicine. I hope in such a good working and learning environment,

I could be "well nourished" and develop good clinical and research skills and make contributions in paediatrics both in clinical and non-clinical aspects.

Goodbye & Best Wishes

Retirement:

Professor Yeung Chap-yung (楊執庸), Chair of Paediatrics, has served the Department of Paediatrics for nearly 20 years, building the Department to become one of the best units in the region. Being an expert in neonatology, he has contributed to the development and advancement of this discipline enormously in the past 30 years. A most memorable farewell banquet was held in his honour on 2 July 2000. He will continue to serve the Department in the capacity as Honorary Clinical Professor.

Professor TT Loh (羅達德), Professor of Department of Physiology

Dr PL Nandi, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery



Departures:

Dr SM Stewart, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine

Professor He Guo-wei (何國偉), Professor of Department of Surgery

Miss Diana MW Liu (廖曼華), Administrative Assistant, Faculty Office

Congratulations to ...



Professor Anthony J Hedley (賀達理), for being awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star in the HKSAR 2000 Honours List. When asked about his feelings, he said,

"I am very pleased that work done in and from this Faculty has been recognised in this year's honours list. It is of course something of a mystery why some are chosen for honours and others not. But it is no secret that individual achievements are usually the result of a great deal of team work. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of my departmental colleagues for their support and concerted efforts to take the work of academic Community Medicine into the public domain to address important problems in population health, the environment and the delivery of health care. I hope that this progress will continue so that we can attain a fully fledged service role for community medicine in the near future."

Prof AJ Hedley

Professor Jacques Hugon, for being elected as the Head of the Department of Anatomy from March 17, 2000 to December 6, 2002.

Professor Cyrus R Kumana's Antibiotic Stewardship Team, for being selected for the Outstanding Staff and Teams Award 2000 of Queen Mary Hospital by the hospital assessment panel.

Professor Lam Tai-hing (林大慶), **Professor Anthony J Hedley (賀達理)** and **Dr Wong Chit-ming (黃浙明)** for winning the Best Poster Awards in the Hospital Authority Convention 2000. The poster entitled "Correlation of socioeconomic/ demographic variation with mortality and hospital admissions ratios".

Professor John CY Leong (梁智仁), for being awarded an Honorary Membership of the Royal College of Orthopaedic Surgeons of Thailand

Professor William I Wei (韋業), for being elected as the President of the Hong Kong Head & Neck Society and admitted as Fellowship of the Royal College of England.



Prof WI Wei (right)

Donations

Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association has donated a sum of HK\$6,000 to the Department of Community Medicine for the establishing the Sister Mary Aquinas Prize.

Hang Seng Bank has donated HK\$18,000 to the Department of Nursing Studies for establishing a scholarship for Year Two student of Bachelor of Nursing Programme (Full-time) in the academic year 2000-2001.

MBBS Class of 1977 (Medic '77) has donated a sum of HK\$50,000 to the Faculty of Medicine for establishing an annual prize, known as the Dr Avery SC Chan Prize in Dermatology.

Ms Sophie Lau Yau Fun (劉柔芬), on behalf of her father Mr Lau Kim Chai (劉謙齋), has donated \$100,000 to the Faculty of Medicine in support of medical education development.

Professor Grace WK Tang (鄧惠瓊) has donated HK\$129,000 to the Faculty for establishing the Dean's Conference Grant for RGC Grant Awardees.

Dr Wong Bing-lai (黃炳禮) and his sons Messrs Wong Tat-chang Abraham (黃達漳), Wong Tat-kee David (黃達琪) and Wong Tat-sum Samuel (黃達琛) have donated HK\$300,000 to the Faculty of Medicine for establishing a Scholarship Scheme for the Master of Research in Medicine candidates; and HK\$200,000 to the Department of Nursing Studies for establishing the BL Wong Prizes in Nursing Studies.



Forthcoming Events

HKU-Pasteur Research Centre - Symposium on IT, Medicine and the Stock Market: A Paradigm for Post-Genomics Era

Date : October 24, 2000
 Venue : Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre
 Information : Miss Fontaine Au
 Tel: 2819 2859 Fax: 2818 4913

Royal Society Kan Tong Po Visiting Professor - Professor Gillian Murphy's Public Lecture

Date : November 12 - December 12, 2000
 Venue : To be announced
 Information : Professor Kathy Cheah, Department of Biochemistry
 Fax: 2855 1254 Email: biochem@hkusua.hku.hk

Drugs Information Association (DIA) Meeting and Pre-Meeting Courses

Date : November 13-15, 16-19, 2000
 Venue : HKAM Jockey Club Building, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen
 Information : Ms Rita Chau Tel: 2871 8815

The Croucher Foundation Advanced Study Institute on Genetics, Health and Disease in the Post Genome Project Era

Date : November 14-21, 2000
 Venue : Lecture Room, (G-05), Patrick Manson Building, (South Wing)
 Information : Professor Paul Tam/ Professor Kathy Cheah, Centre for Human Development and Birth Defects
 Tel: 2855 4850 Fax: 2817 3155/ 2855 1254
 Email: biochem@hkusua.hku.hk
 Homepage: www.hku.hk/biochem

Workshop on Neuro Regeneration

Date : November 28, 2000
 Venue : Council Chamber Meng Wah Complex, HKU Main Campus
 Information : Ms Vera S. Yip Tel: 2819 9216

5th Faculty Research Postgraduate Symposium

Date : December 7, 2000
 Venue : HKAM Jockey Club Building, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen
 Information : Congress Secretariat
 Tel: 2818 0232/ 2855 4235 Fax: 2818 1186

7th Hong Kong International Cancer Congress

Date : December 7-9, 2000
 Venue : HKAM Jockey Club Building, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen
 Information : 7th HKICC Secretariat
 Tel: 2818 0232, 2855 4235 Fax: 2818 1186

Hong Kong Stroke Workshop 2000

Date : December 9-10, 2000
 Venue : School of Professional and Continuing Education, Admiralty
 Information : Ms Alice Chow
 Tel: 2105 4865 Fax: 2895 5157

Centre of Alimentary Research and Education - 2nd Scientific Meeting

Date : December 10, 2000
 Venue : Sheraton Hotel, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
 Information : Ms Denise Yu, Department of Medicine
 Tel: 2855 4607 Fax: 2816 2863

Symposium on Traditional Medicine in Clinical Trials

Date : December 16, 2000
 Venue : Underground Lecture Theatre 2, LG1, New Clinical Building, Queen Mary Hospital
 Information : Miss Josephine Yuen, Clinical Trials Centre
 Tel: 2855 466

Hong Kong Surgical Forum - Winter 2001

Date : January 13-14, 2001
 Venue : Queen Mary Hospital
 Information : Forum Secretary, Room 202, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam
 Tel: 2818 0232, 2855 4235 Fax: 2818 1186

ENT Surgery Course for Theatre Nurse (October 7, 2000)

Vascular Surgery Course for Theatre Nurse (October 14, 2000)

Advanced Burn Life Support Provider Course (November 2, 2000)

Liver Transplantation: A Multidisciplinary Team Approach (November 4, 2000)

Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Provider Course (November 8-9, 2000)

Advanced Trauma Care for Nurse Instructor Course (November 12-13, 2000)

Advanced Trauma Care for Nurse Provider Course (November 14-15, 17-18, 2000)

Advanced Trauma Life Support Course for Student Course (November 14-16, 17-19), (December 1-3, 2000)

Head and Neck Surgery Course for Theatre Nurse (November 25, 2000)

Venue : C Wing, 3/F, Main Block, Queen Mary Hospital
 Information : Miss June Chan, Skills Development Centre, Department of Surgery Tel: 2855 4885

From the Editor:

The Editorial Board would like to thank Professor Mary Ip for her contribution as Editor of the Newsletter in the past 3 years. Her unflinching dedication has certainly assured the good quality of the publication. The Board would also like to provide a vote of thanks to Miss Diana Liu for serving as Editorial Assistant and welcome her successor, Miss Emily Chan. The Newsletter of the Faculty of Medicine has been serving as a channel of communication with its staff, alumni and friends. We believe that readers would like to be kept abreast of our students' activities and a new column to report on current student events has been added from this issue onwards.

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